



# Slav states pledge economic union

By John Lloyd in Moscow

**BELARUS**, Russia and Ukraine, the three former Soviet republics which created the Commonwealth of Independent States, have pledged themselves to a close economic union designed to knit together once more their devasted economies.

The agreement was announced at the weekend as waves made by the Russian parliament's decision on Friday to declare Russian ownership

ship of the port of Sevastopol in the Ukrainian region of Crimea subsided, at least for the moment.

Ukrainian leaders appeared pacified yesterday by comments from Mr Boris Yeltsin on his return from the Group of Seven summit in Tokyo. The Russian president said he was "ashamed" of the decision.

The prime ministers of the three Slav states signed a "declaration on economic integration" which commits them to an economic treaty by Septem-

ber 1. This would sweep away both formal and informal barriers to trade, permit citizens of all three countries to live, work and buy property in the others and propose new institutions for developing a "common economic space".

Mr Victor Chernomyrdin, the Russian premier, hinted that the agreement would go "much further" than mere economic union - a possible reference to a clause in the declaration which says that "the governments proceed from the fact

that economic integration cannot be effective in isolation without a wider, multilateral mutual action in the political, defence and legislative areas".

However, the agreement faces a number of hurdles before it can be taken at face value, not least that it is one among many such declarations which have barely addressed the growing distance between the members of the CIS.

It is only an agreement to agree - at the mercy of a worsening of relations between the

states over the next few weeks, especially between Ukraine and Russia.

The union reunites the original signatories of the CIS agreement in December 1991 but leaves out the other seven members, especially the Central Asian states of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, all of which have clamoured to remain in the group.

Mr Vyacheslav Kebich, the Belarusian prime minister, denied that the non-Slav peo-

# Further arrest in Italy mineral water inquiry

By Haig Simonian in Milan

**ITALIAN** police have detained Mr Ettore Fortuna, chairman of the country's mineral water industry association, on allegations of paying illegal political contributions.

His arrest follows similar charges on Friday against Mr Bruno Montasti, managing director of the popular San Pellegrino brand, and Mr Giuliano De Polo, chairman of the Ferrero brand. Mr Violati allegedly paid £20m (\$30,000) to speed Health Ministry investigations into the quality of his company's water.

The bubble burst for all four men after magistrates began interrogating Mr Giovanni Marone, the secretary of Mr Francesco De Lorenzo, the former health minister. According to Mr Marone's testimony, which has been widely leaked, Mr Fortuna paid about £25m to facilitate the introduction of new European Community mineral water standards into Italy.

The arrests reinforce allegations that the Health Ministry was one of the most lucrative

sources of funds for Italian politicians.

Mr De Lorenzo, who resigned in February after allegations of a job-for-votes scam in his native Naples, has since been told by magistrates he is under investigation for a string of alleged kickbacks and alleged illegal political contributions.

Among those arrested so far following testimony from Mr Marone are a number of top drugs company executives and executives from some of Italy's biggest advertising and public relations companies.

All are accused of paying kickbacks to the ministry to influence drug policy or win business on Italy's big anti-Aids campaign.

• Mr Renato Marnetto, a former finance director of the state-owned Eni energy and chemicals group, is reported to have told magistrates that the company paid \$20m to the Libyan government to prevent the full nationalisation of its assets in the 1970s.

The allegations, which come from normally reliable leaked testimony, claim the money was paid to Mr Abdessalam Jallad, second in command to Libya's leader, Colonel Muammar Gadaffi.

# Balladur bonds success is 'vote of confidence'

By David Buchan in Paris

**FRENCH** Prime Minister Edouard Balladur yesterday confirmed that his special bond issue, linked to privatisation and designed to promote economic recovery, had brought in FF110bn (\$19.3bn) or nearly three times its target.

"A few months ago, the French gave us their votes," Mr Balladur said in reference to his March election victory, "and today they are entrusting us with their money." He claimed that the threefold oversubscription of the loan was "an exceptional sign of confidence" in the government.

But the fact that the "Balladur bond" issue has brought in far more money than any previous state borrowing is also due to its special advantages.

These give subscribers preference in buying shares in companies which are to be privatised from this autumn, and enable them to switch from money market funds into tax-free share savings plans.

So, although the four-year Balladur bonds carry an interest rate of 6 per cent a year,

the real cost to the state - and corresponding advantage to the bond's subscribers - is put by analysts at 7 per cent or more.

The original target for the bond issue had been set at FF40bn. In an interview yesterday with *Journal de Dimanche*, the prime minister said he would use the "surplus" of some FF70bn to "support business activity and to reduce the public debt", for example by repaying companies the value added tax refund they are owed by the state more quickly. This speedier VAT refund had already been announced by the government, however.

The prime minister said the bond issue's success and the lowering of interest rates had both safeguarded the state's welfare system and held the prospect of lower unemployment in coming months. It was therefore time, he said, for the French to stop worrying about the future by spending less and saving more. "They should realise that precautionary saving is now less necessary and that they can consume more."

# Spanish judge again rejects KIO plea to try ex-chairman

By Peter Bruce in Madrid

**SPAIN'S** senior financial crimes judge has for the third time this year rejected efforts by the Kuwait Investment Office to open criminal proceedings against the former chairman of the KIO, Sheikh Fahad Mohammed Al Sabah, and the former management of the KIO's troubled Spanish industrial investments.

The KIO claims that it lost all \$5bn invested in Spain in the mid-1980s because of mismanagement and that up to \$500m of this was stolen. The judge, rejecting a new KIO writ on Friday, said the Kuwaitis had produced no new evidence and there was no evidence in the writ of criminal conduct. The KIO will appeal, for the second time.

The tortuous efforts of the KIO to get an investigation opened in Spain coincide with indications that a civil writ issued against many of the same defendants in London is also likely to become bogged down in arguments over jurisdiction. While the KIO is headquartered in London, most of the allegedly criminal behaviour by former Kuwaiti and Spanish managers took place in Spain.

The new rebuff for the KIO in Spain comes alongside publication of a Kuwaiti parliamentary investigation into the KIO's big losses in Spain, in which a senior KIO official is quoted as saying he was told in 1990 by Sheikh Fahad not to speak of a secret transfer of \$300m from Spain to secret KIO accounts as the money was being used to make "political" payments.

The transfer occurred during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, when the emirate was looking for international support to help eject the invaders. While the position of the Kuwaiti government is that no funds were used to make political payments and that the money was, indeed, stolen, the parliamentary commission report says it could not find a good explanation as to why it had been decided to make criminal charges in Spain and civil ones in the UK. It recommended that the KIO drop its traditional legal advisers, Stephen Harwood.

THE FINANCIAL TIMES  
Published by The Financial Times (Europe) GmbH, Nibelungenplatz 3, 50181 Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Telephone 069 912 1821. Fax 069 5964481. Telex 416193. Represented by Edward Hugo, Managing Director. Publisher: VM Verlag Vertrieb und Marketing GmbH, Adenauerallee 100, D-5312 Bonn (Germany). Tel: 0228 673263. Head office: Schlossstrasse 3a, D-5205 Neuss-Lerchenberg (owned by Hurley International). Responsible Editor: Richard Lambert. Tel: 0181 860 00 00. Head of Financial News: Michael H. Smith. Number One Southwark Street, London SE1 9HL, UK. Shareholders of the Financial Times (Europe) GmbH are The Financial Times (Europe) Ltd, London, and F.T. (Germany) GmbH & Co. Ltd, London. Shareholders of the above mentioned two companies is: The Financial Times Limited, Number One Southwark Street, London SE1 9HL, UK. The Company is incorporated under the laws of England and Wales. Chairman: D.C.M. Bell.

Publishing Director: J. Rolley, 168 Rue de Rivoli, F-75044 Paris Cedex 01. Telephone 01 4297-0621. Fax 01 4297-0620. Telex 247120. Post Box 1221 Rue de la Caisse, F-75100 Paris Cedex 1. Editor: Richard Lambert. Post Box 1221 Rue de la Caisse, F-75100 Paris Cedex 1. ISSN 1145-2753. Commission Agent: D.C.M. Bell.

DENMARK  
Financial Times (Scandinavia) Ltd, Vimmerbustgade 42A, DK-1161 Copenhagen, Denmark. Telephone 33 13 44 41. Fax 33 53 33.

# Russia lurks in the shadows of G7 feast

By Leyla Boultou in Tokyo

**RUSSIA** emerged at last week's Tokyo summit as an intrusive but inevitable presence at Group of Seven gatherings as it struggles to switch from frightening superpower to market-based democracy.

The bearish figures of the two Borys - President Boris Yeltsin and his equally tall finance minister, Mr Boris Fyodorov - stood out in sharp contrast to their slight Japanese hosts in a vivid double act combining both the old and the new Russia.

While Mr Yeltsin used his talent for plain speaking to push for better access to western markets, the younger Mr Fyodorov reassured his western counterparts they have a solid interlocutor who knows the details of what further economic reforms involve.

Mr Yeltsin, despite joking at a final news conference that he would not be allowed back into Russia if he returned the disputed Kurile islands to Japan,

did little to mend fences with Tokyo. But he said he was prepared to discuss the sovereignty issue on a long-delayed bilateral visit in October.

Western leaders, confirming more than \$45bn in aid and loans for Russia, treated the Russian leader, whom many G7 politicians know personally from his days as Soviet foreign minister.

But most worrying was Ukraine, whose President Leonid Kravchuk asked the G7 on the eve of the summit not to forget economic assistance to the second most powerful republic after Russia. While Mr Yeltsin was in Tokyo, it made new threats not to give up its nuclear weapons as required by the Start 1 disarmament treaty which the US and Russia wanted to ratify.

In an attempt to make it feel less excluded, Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin said they would offer Ukraine a "tri-lateral deal" to encourage it to stick to earlier plans to become a nuclear-free state.

He announced, for instance, that Russia wanted United Nations peace monitors to help Russian troops impose a settlement on the southern republic



Georgian soldiers try to stop refugees getting on to a military aircraft at Sukhumi airport to flee the besieged city. Government forces broke an Abkhazian separatist blockade on Saturday

# Regional jostling ties up Yeltsin assembly

John Lloyd looks at new wrangling over a constitution for Russia

**R**USSIA's constitutional convention starts a new session today that seems certain to continue and deepen the fissures in the country's power structure over the future form of the state.

A new text of the constitution has been produced in the last few days by the convention's working group, a copy of which has been obtained by the Financial Times.

Like its predecessors, it is replete with rights and freedoms for the citizens of Russia, and is careful in many instances to emphasise the break between the formal documents of the Soviet era and the present-day intention to underpin the rights of a free people within a democracy.

However, the contentious parts of the draft constitution are not, for most people - except the die-hard communists who have their own document proposing a return to the dictatorship of the proletariat - the promulgation of human

and civil rights. Instead, they lie in the competing powers and responsibilities of the federal centres and the regions and republics within the Russian federation.

It is the republican and regional leadership that Mr Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, relied on when he bypassed parliament to bring together the convention - largely made up of regional representatives. However, though this has, for the moment, shifted the struggle from a forum in which he could not hope to gain assent to one better disposed towards him, he now runs up against the jealousies and fears of leaders who are trying to safeguard their own and their peoples' interests at a time when the centre seems to bring only inflation and taxes.

The response of the republics and regions has been to demand more and more autonomy. And, because earlier drafts favoured the republics over the regions (the republics marked ethnic territorial units reflecting the imperial nature of Russia's expansion in the 18th century), the latter are now declaring themselves republics in order to claim extra rights.

In the latest draft there has been a conscious effort to equalise the treatment of the "subjects of the federation".

For example, a small insertion in one clause gives the regions and the republics the right to make "laws", the scope of which is not defined, while another allows the possibility of accession to the federation by means of a separate treaty - thus opening the possibility of bringing in Tatarstan, the powerful republic which has always demanded special treatment.

The response of the republics and regions has been to

At the same time, the drafters believe, anomalies have been ironed out of the relationship between the president and the parliament - with the president in the superior position but with parliament having greater power than previously envisaged in initiating legislation and in deciding on the composition of the government.

An earlier clause which appeared to suggest that the president was the highest court in the land has been clarified to read that he will seek to arbitrate in disputes between the centre and the regions, or between the regions themselves - but if he fails, the case will revert to the courts.

However, the differences among the regions and republics appear to be too great to enable agreement today, or in the near future. The republics resent being reduced to the

level of the regions: the regions will tolerate nothing less: all resent the special status of Tatarstan. Mr Sergei Shakhrai, the deputy premier who has been the driving force behind the Convention on Mr Yeltsin's side, said at the weekend that "we should adopt an interim constitutional agreement instead" - a view shared by Mr Sergei Filatov, Mr Yeltsin's chief of staff.

## See editorial comment, P.13

The most likely timetable now appears to be that a two to three week period will elapse in which the regions and republics consider the draft and make their views felt; in the likelihood that no compromise will be possible among them, there should be

other non-Dutch creditors holding Russian claims.

The proceedings raise questions about property rights under communism

other non-Dutch creditors holding Russian claims.

The Dutch laws on attachment are very liberal, meaning that a US company could have Russian property arrested in the Netherlands even if the claim does not involve the Netherlands. Mr Ton Steinz, of the Amsterdam law firm Steinz and Van der Veen, said.

The dispute is a minefield of complexities, raising difficult questions about the ownership of property and assets under the old communist system and whether they are applicable today. The details centre on the non-payment of goods in the crucial years 1990 and 1991, when the Soviet Union collapsed in chaos and gave way to the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The case is arousing interest in the Netherlands, where at least 50 other companies with export credit insurance are waiting to be paid for \$135m (£185m) worth of goods supplied during this period.

Now the fate of the Kapitan Kanevskiy is starting to win attention abroad.

Alfred C. Toepper, the German commodities trader, filed a petition in Rotterdam last week asking for permission to "arrest" a ship of the Russian Federation as part of its dispute with the Russian authorities about non-payment for

other creditors prefer to follow the diplomatic route so that they don't harm future trading relations," he said.

# We can smooth your entry into the most promising of the emerging markets in Europe.



Bank Polska Kasa Opieki SA is the most internationally oriented, full service commercial bank in Poland. We specialize in trade and project financing.

We are also the biggest dealer in treasury bonds and the leading broker, accounting for nearly 45% of all transactions, on the Warsaw Stock Exchange.

Our branches are located in New York, Paris, Tel Aviv, Warsaw and 80 other cities all over Poland.

Head Office  
Tranquilla 7/9, 00-920 Warsaw  
P.O. Box 1008 • fax (48-22) 273 463 • swift code PKOP PL PW  
Central Brokerage Office  
Nowy Swiat 6/12, 00-920 Warsaw  
fax (48-22) 211 218 • tel. (48-22) 211 123  
Branch Offices:  
470 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016  
fax (1-212) 2132971 • tel. (1-212) 7258834  
23 rue Taitbout, 75009 Paris  
fax (33-1) 42471538 • tel. (33-1) 48013434  
95 Albany Road, Tel-Avir  
fax (972-3) 295840 • tel. (972-3) 291916

JOHN LLOYD

Rain is expected to ease, but east coast heatwave adds to weather problems

## US flooding disaster area grows

By George Graham  
in Washington

**T**HE US government yesterday declared 44 more Missouri counties disaster areas, adding to the six-state area in the upper Mississippi basin that has been devastated by weeks of rain and floods.

While weather forecasters predicted the rain would slacken over the next few days in the upper Midwest, Mr Elbert Joe Friday, director of the National Weather Service, warned there was now so much in the river basins that flooding could last for weeks.

"It could very well go toward the end of August," he cautioned yesterday.

The heavy rains have soaked acres of farmland and driven the Mississippi to levels that in many locations surpass the peaks recorded in the 1973 floods, the most devastating in recent memory.

Flooding has also closed the water purification centre in Des Moines, Iowa, depriving 250,000 people of clean water.

At the same time, the east coast of the US is caught by a heatwave. A week of temperatures above 35 degrees has taken more lives so far than the flooding in the Midwest.

At St Louis, just below the Mississippi's junction with the Missouri, floods are expected to crest at 45 feet this week, higher than the 43.3 feet peak recorded in 1973. River flow at St Louis is expected to reach 1m cubic feet per second.

The great floods of 1844 are believed to have reached a flow of 1.3m cubic feet per second, but the destruction they caused was much less.

Some critics say developers have invited disaster by building in the flood plain instead of up on the river bluffs as in the past. Efforts by the Army Corps of Engineers to control flooding with a programme of dams and levees may only have worsened the situation by confining the Mississippi within a narrower channel.

"Rivers are supposed to flood. You cannot control a river's volume and the size of the Mississippi," comments Ms Susie Wilkins of American Rivers, a Washington-based conservation group.

Other critics say the federal government has exacerbated the problem by not enforcing planning restrictions to divert development away from the riskiest areas as a *quid pro quo* for the cheap insurance it has provided since 1963.



Kansas City business owners survey damage after Friday night brought seven more inches of rain

## Search for new NY Fed chief near end

By Patrick Harverson in New York

**T**HE successor to Mr Gerald Corrigan as president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, one of the most powerful positions in international finance, is likely to emerge this week.

Mr Corrigan, who announced his decision to step down in January, is due to leave on August 20. If the search committee fails to make a recommendation at Thursday's monthly meeting of the bank's board of directors, it will have to

wait until August 18. That would not leave enough time before Mr Corrigan's departure for the confirmation of the candidate by the governors of the Federal Reserve Board in Washington.

Three names have emerged as front-runners for the post, which is second only to the Fed chairmanship in importance in the US central bank system. But the selection process has taken longer than normal. One observer with a close knowledge of the Fed said last week: "I heard that there was a real

fight over this. Someone clearly had a rough time making up their minds."

The front-runners are: Mr William McDonough, Mr Corrigan's number two in New York and the official responsible for implementing Fed policy in the domestic bond market and foreign exchange markets; Mr Thomas Melzer, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis; and Mr Gary Stern, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Mr McDonough is tipped by most insiders to win the job.

Others believed to have been considered include Ms Karen Horn, chairman of Bank One in Ohio and former president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland; Mr David Mullins, vice-chairman of the Federal Reserve; and Mr Richard Syron, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

In the past, the New York Fed president has played a key role in helping the financial system survive crises, including the October 1987 stock market crash.

House recently voted to kill funding for TV Marti, the US-financed propaganda station beamed to Cuba and closely aligned with Mr Castro.

The new administration does not appear to have developed a clear Cuban policy yet. During the election campaign, Mr Bill Clinton took an even tougher line on Cuba than President George Bush, but his appointees include some who have in the past favoured more dialogue with Cuba.

Telephone links are one area where the two camps agree. The Cuban-American National Foundation, which in general opposes any easing of the embargo, backs easier and cheaper telecommunications, and this measure was included in a bill passed last year which otherwise sought to tighten the economic noose on Cuba.

**Demand for phone links** among the Cuban exile community is high. Even before the limited AT&T microwave link was destroyed by the hurricane, the company was able to connect only around 500,000 calls out of 80m attempted each year.

The cost of getting through to Cuba has risen sharply. AT&T says that if it could serve the island directly, its charges would average \$1.55 (£1) a minute, with the service via Italy cut to a trickle, many exiles now dial pirate services in Canada, at prices ranging from \$3.50 to \$7.50 a minute.

Cuba prefers the Canadian links, because it receives a share of the revenue in the form of desperately needed hard currency. The restriction on AT&T's Italian traffic is seen as a bargaining ploy to weaken US insistence that all revenue go into the escrow account, which has an estimated \$60m already.

**Congress is starting to listen to more moderate Cuban voices, reports George Graham**

US Cuban policy has always been dominated by an argument over whether to use threats to finish the work of the trade embargo and topple the Castro government, or incentives to bring about change more quickly.

In political terms, the former school of thought, expounded by the Cuban-American National Foundation, which in general opposes any easing of the embargo, backs easier and cheaper telecommunications, and this measure was included in a bill passed last year which otherwise sought to tighten the economic noose on Cuba.

Members of Congress have started to listen to some of the more moderate voices in the Cuban exile community. The

## US-Cuba phone links could mean softer line

**A**T first glance, relations between Cuba and the US have rarely been friendlier. Cuba's devastated economy is driving more people to flee the country, leading to more shootings by Cuban border guards and a flurry of diplomatic protests from the US.

"Because things are so desperate in Cuba and more people think the end is at hand, there have been more incidents that could provoke tension," comments Mr Ernest Preng, former chief economist at the US Agency for International Development and author of a recent study on Cuba's economic prospects once the US trade embargo is lifted.

A State Department spokesman last week criticised Cuba's "barbaric" attacks both on US-registered boats trying to pick up refugees and on swimmers trying to reach asylum in the US Guantanamo naval base, on the island's southeastern coast.

This drew a sharp rebuttal from Mr Roberto Robaina, Cuba's foreign minister, who called the US complaint "an infamy, a provocation and, at the very least, a shameful lack of seriousness".

Telecommunications between Cuba and the US are also at one of their worst levels in years: last year's Hurricane Andrew destroyed AT&T's microwave links from south Florida and Cuba has now sharply cut the volume of US calls it will allow to be routed through Italy.

However, the US State Department is preparing new guidelines that could greatly ease telephone links with Cuba and mark a step along what some Cuba experts believe might turn out to be a path towards warmer relations. Significantly, some AT&T officials

ceased publication on Friday, saying the Post's 11 unions did not give him enough cost concessions to make the paper viable.

However, Mr Cuomo was at the centre of attempts to revive the negotiations and some officials hoped Mr Murdoch might be tempted back if the unions gave further ground. See Observer

## Last-chance talks for NY Post

**N**EW YORK Governor Mario Cuomo was yesterday involved in last-ditch talks to keep alive the New York Post after Mr Rupert Murdoch abandoned an attempt to buy the ailing newspaper on Friday. Martin Dickson writes from New York.

Mr Murdoch, running the paper temporarily under a contract from the bankruptcy court,

## SIEMENS

**Everyone's talking about mobile phones.  
We helped to invent them.**

Mobile phones give you a new sense of freedom - a freedom which is only worth its cost if you can depend on your terminal equipment. Siemens mobile telephones, made by European experts in the mobile telephone field, set new standards - 12 network operators in 11 of the 18 European countries with mobile telephones have now decided in favor of Siemens digital GSM network technology. Our designs for the shape and function of mobile telephones and our development in network technology have been adopted worldwide.

Today, this lead in know-how is reflected in every Siemens terminal. It expresses itself in the range of functions and convenience, reliability and service. There is a good reason why we have developed and manufactured vital modules of our mobile telephones ourselves - the Siemens mark on the outside is the guarantee of quality inside. With quality you can depend on, why settle for anything less? Not every digital telephone network in Europe is from Siemens but with a Siemens terminal you can be sure of achieving maximum convenience and reliability.

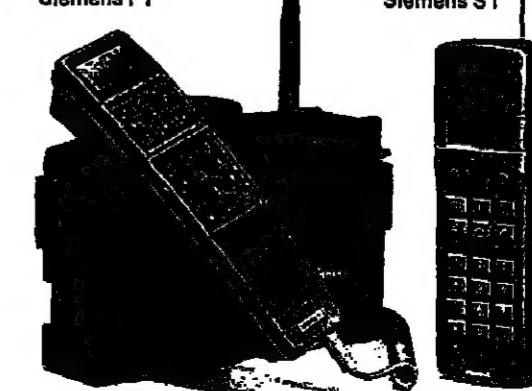
For example, the robust GSM portable or the compact GSM handheld with completely new user prompt functions.

For more information, please contact:  
Siemens AG, GSM-Info Center,  
Postfach 234 MB, FT D-90713 Fürth,  
Germany



Siemens P1

Siemens S1



## FINANCIAL MANAGER

### Attractive remuneration and prospects

A leading private hospital operating in Jeddah requires a highly competent and experienced professional to be responsible for the direction and coordination of the accounting and financial activities, including treasury and banking, finance, preparation and interpretation of accounting information, financial reports, statistics, accounting policies and procedures, budget preparation and ongoing review of the business and office and data processing services.

Reporting to the Chief Executive, the candidate should be:

- o a professionally qualified accountant, such as CA, ACMA, CPA, with 10-15 years of industry experience.
- o an expert in accounting, finance and business practices;
- o able to evaluate and interpret financial data in a business sense;
- o proficient in defining the requirements for automating accounting procedures and management information systems;
- o bilingual - Arabic and English languages.

If you match these requirements and welcome the challenge, please write with full CV to:

NAZER & BANAGA  
Certified Public Accountants  
P.O. Box No. 6659, Jeddah 21452

### THE WORLD'S FINEST TRADITIONAL MOTORYACHT



The M/Y Massarakah (formerly Ultima II) at 257' [78.65m] is one of the largest private yachts in the world.

Built at the Kure shipyards, Japan in 1960 this classic yacht has been superbly maintained and lovingly restored and now even surpasses her former glory.

Equipped with modern communications systems designed with vast deck space and many day areas, the Massarakah is ideal for private use, corporate entertaining or as a Presidential or State yacht.

Lying in the Mediterranean. Price on request. For further details contact:

Mark Cavendish, Cavendish White,  
No:7, 39 Tadema Road, London, SW10 0PY  
Tel [44 71] 352 6565 - Fax [44 71] 352 6515

## NEWS: INTERNATIONAL

# Clinton tough towards N Korea

By John Burton in Seoul

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton yesterday offered more sticks than carrots to North Korea to persuade it to accept full nuclear inspections, as he ended his visit to South Korea.

With US and North Korean officials preparing to hold discussions on the nuclear issue in Geneva on Wednesday, Mr Clinton and Mr Warren Christopher, the US secretary of state, reaffirmed that Pyongyang must fully comply with international nuclear inspections or face UN sanctions.

"If we just stay strong and we stay resolute and we stay firm, we know that will work," said Mr Clinton as he toured the demilitarised zone that separates North and South Korea. "Eventually, we have to hope" that North Korea will take the sensible course."

"When you examine the nature of the American security commitment to Korea... it is pointless for them to try to develop nuclear weapons because if they ever use them it would be the end of their country."

The president promised there would be no cuts in the number of US troops in South Korea, now totalling 87,000, until the nuclear issue was resolved.



AT THE FRONT LINE: President Clinton is shown US defensive positions in the demilitarised zone between North and South Korea

Mr Christopher said in a meeting with his South Korean counterpart that any improvement in US-North Korean relations would depend on the progress in inter-Korean ties, ruling out the possibility that Washington might separately

recognise Pyongyang in exchange for its full acceptance of nuclear inspections. The US has attached other conditions to better relations with North Korea, including an improvement in human rights and renunciation of terrorism.

The US last month persuaded North Korea to suspend its withdrawal from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty during high-level talks in New York.

Mr Christopher said Washington would not tolerate

North Korea dragging its feet endlessly during the new round of talks. If no appreciable progress was achieved within a reasonable period of time, the nuclear issue would be referred to the UN Security Council for action.

## UN team flies out of Iraq

By Mark Nicholson in Cairo

IRAQ yesterday sustained its defiance of United Nations weapons inspectors, and brought closer the threat of a UN-backed strike against its military installations by refusing to allow UN experts to seal equipment at two missile testing sites south of Baghdad.

A UN team led by Mr Mark Silver, a US weapons specialist, abruptly flew out of Baghdad yesterday after failing to persuade the Iraqi authorities to allow switches at the two sites to be fixed down and sealed with wax.

Mr Silver's three-member team spent less than 24 hours in Iraq and left the moment it decided the Iraqis would not budge.

"I was not allowed to do what I went in for, and that is why I came out immediately," Mr Silver told reporters soon after arriving back at UN headquarters in Bahrain.

The team's failure to accomplish its task is certain to prompt a renewed collision between the UN and Iraq and raise the possibility of a military strike against the two sites.

## Attacks on Israel blamed on Syria

ISRAEL yesterday blamed Syria for an upsurge in attacks by Arab guerrillas based in southern Lebanon and said it was considering how best to retaliate, writes Julian Ozanne from Jerusalem.

Mr Uri Lubrani, Israel's chief negotiator with Lebanon at the Middle East peace talks, said Syria was responsible for the latest escalation of artillery duels, which last week left five Israeli soldiers dead. "This escalation requires different treatment than others up to now," he said.

Syria, which has up to 40,000 troops in Lebanon, yesterday responded by saying Israel's self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon, scene of the clashes, was an "explosive trap".

Meanwhile, Mr Dennis Ross, US co-ordinator of the peace talks, is currently shuttling between Middle East capitals as part of an intense diplomatic effort to break the deadlock in the US-backed peace process.

### Mubarak backed for re-election

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday won the backing of 97 per cent of the People's Assembly to run as the sole candidate in the presidential elections, clearing the way for him to take up his third six-year term, Mark Nicholson writes from Cairo.

The petition makes the house's backing for Mr Mubarak all but certain on July 21, when it must formally endorse his candidature by a two-thirds majority. His nomination will then be put to a referendum in October, at which a simple majority will return him. He won 97.1 per cent of the votes in October 1987.

### Clerics join Saudi cabinet

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has made two senior Moslem clerics cabinet ministers and ordered the setting up of an Islamic guidance ministry, Renter reports from Dubai.

Sheikh Abd Al-Aziz Bin Abdulla Bin Baz, a member of the influential Higher Council of Ulema, was named president of the council, a position that will now carry ministerial rank.

The decree also named Sheikh Bin Baz as the General Mufti of Saudi Arabia, the country's most senior religious post.

FT writers examine the differing perceptions in the US and Japan on the future of the framework trade deal

## Tokyo claims advantage in Clinton sees new dawn in relations numerical targets battle

By Charles Leadbeater  
in Tokyo

JAPANESE officials yesterday presented the weekend trade framework agreement with the US as a turning point, mainly because they believe it marks the first success of a more assertive Japanese approach to the US.

Japan will claim that it came out best from the main dispute which has dogged the negotiations since they started in April: whether numerical targets should set goals for Japanese policies to open up its markets to imports and reduce its current account surplus.

The Japanese approach on this issue marks a break with the past. In previous trade disputes, the Japanese have started by talking tough but eventually backed down. This time they started by publicly resisting numerical targets and did not back down when the US applied pressure.

Japan will claim that because the agreement does not explicitly mention numerical targets, it has won the day. The reality is that this central dispute over targets will continue, but on a different footing.

Tokyo has successfully resisted US demands that it should set its economic policies with the target of halving its current account surplus.

However, this does not mean

pressure on the Bank of Japan for a further cut in interest rates, which are at record low of 2.5 per cent.

Japan has also resisted numerical targets for policies to open the domestic market to imports, especially vehicle parts, high technology goods and financial services.

The agreement says policies to open markets will be assessed using sets of "objective criteria", a phrase introduced to the talks by the Japanese. The content and role of these "criteria" is almost certain to be the subject of further rows between the two sides.

The US has backed down from its earlier call for Japan to accept as a goal a 33 per cent increase in its imports of manufactured goods over the next three years. The agreement does not commit Japan to making sure a share of its domestic market in particular sectors, such as automotive components, is taken by foreign products.

The Japanese did not get everything they wanted. Tokyo wanted a US commitment that the "criteria" would not be interpreted as targets. The US has resisted this demand, so it is open to Washington to try to turn the criteria into goals to guide Japanese import promotion policy.

So the framework does not settle the central dispute about whether targets should be used; it merely puts the argument on a different footing.

The Japanese did not get everything they wanted. Tokyo wanted a US commitment that the "criteria" would not be interpreted as targets. The US has resisted this demand, so it is open to Washington to try to turn the criteria into goals to guide Japanese import promotion policy.

But the likelihood of a further pump-priming package in the autumn or early next year is now much higher. As fiscal policy is so politically constrained, in the short term the agreement will increase

highly significant macro and micro economic policy changes. As such, in the US view, it places Japan under a far tougher obligation than all previous attempts to settle bilateral disputes.

On the macro-economic side, the compact envisages mutually supportive policies whereby the US seeks to reduce its budget deficit while Japan aims to cut its global current account surplus.

It's an agreement about the rules, now we get to play the game - Roger Altman

At its current level of about \$130bn (238bn), Japan's global current account surplus is equivalent to just over 3 per cent of GNP. The US envisages that this can be reduced, mostly by appropriate fiscal policies, to the target zone in "four to five years".

The unstated US agenda is that Japan should accomplish this less by its traditional method of front-loading public spending and more by income tax cuts. While it may seem ironic for an administration that is proposing one of the largest tax increases in US history at home to press the reverse course on Japan, the US view is that this is the most effective means of generating the sort of consumer-led demand in Japan that will suck in imports.

But in tough language it lays out a negotiating timetable for these to be achieved and it commits Japan to making what the agreement calls

with the US - \$50bn last year and rising fast - has not been made explicit. A recent estimate by the Washington-based Institute for International Economics contends that a cut to around \$40bn is the most optimistic outcome over a few years.

Much may depend on another, more controversial, aspect of the agreement - its insistence on greater sectoral access for imported

products and services. The agreement makes no mention of numerical targets as such. However, it does accept that multiple criteria should be used to accept progress in opening Japanese markets. The US will want to use these criteria to set goals for policy, something the Japanese will resist.

Agreements in priority areas are to be reached over the next six months and ratified when the US president and the Japanese prime minister meet early next year, with the balance to be settled at a second get-together next July.

After two years both governments will decide whether to extend this framework agreement beyond the autumn of 1995.

The five principal components of the sectoral access deal cover:

• Japanese government procurement, particularly in relation to

purchases of foreign computers, supercomputers, satellites, medical technology and telecommunications.

• Regulatory reform, covering financial services, insurance, the distribution network and competition policy.

• Other major sectors, particularly cars and car parts.

• Economic harmonisation, addressing issues affecting two-way foreign direct investment, including intellectual property and access to technology.

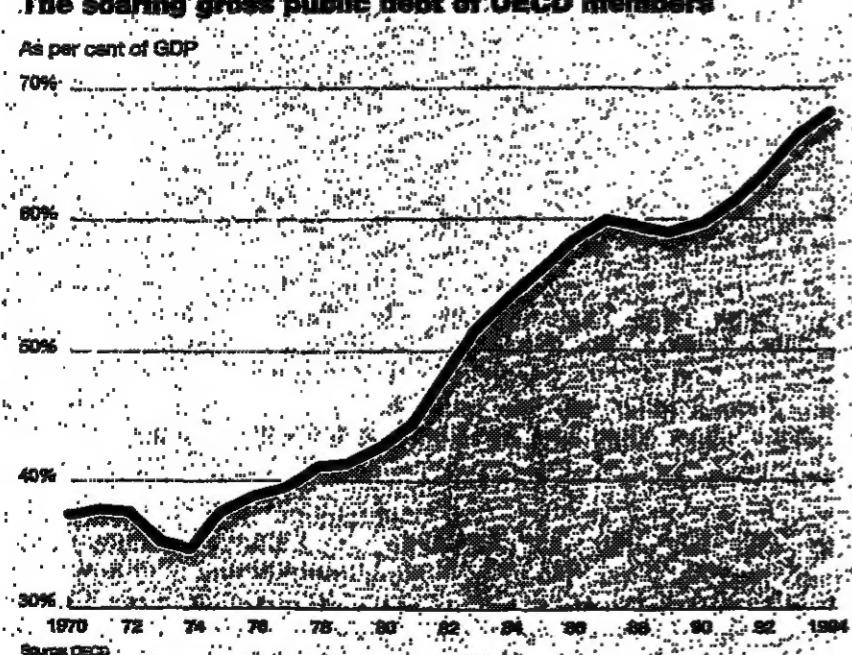
• Implementation - the monitoring of existing and future agreements.

The US team, led by Mr Cutler and Mr Altman and with substantial contributions from other treasury and trade officials, did not necessarily expect to conclude an agreement in Tokyo, especially with the Japanese elections just over a week away. The Japanese, they report, were particularly tough on the question of exemptions from US trade laws.

They may hang tougher still as the sectoral negotiations get serious, which is why the US reserves the right of retaliation under existing trade regulations. Mr Clinton may have made a powerful general case in Tokyo in identifying what he saw as the common cause between Japanese consumers and American workers but the appeal of that cause may fade as the two sides finally take to the field under the new "rules of the game".

## The looming crisis in industrial country public debt

The soaring gross public debt of OECD members



What cannot continue will not do so. The accumulation of public sector debt by the governments of the industrial countries will have to stop. The question is how it will be stopped and when.

Over the past quarter century, the ratio of aggregate gross public debt to gross domestic product in OECD countries has risen from a little under 40 per cent, to 68 per cent (see chart). In only two brief periods has the ratio fallen: during the inflationary economic expansion of the early 1970s and again during the expansion of the second half of the 1980s.

Unfortunately, the rise in the debt ratio during recessions has more often offset the paltry declines during the expansions. No wonder the June OECD Economic Outlook remarks wryly on the need to avoid "the kind of mistake made in the late 1980s when some of the unexpected buoyancy of public revenues associated with above-average growth was used to reduce tax rates rather than to ensure greater fiscal consolidation and to reduce debt."

True, net public debt is not as daunting

as gross public debt: for 1994 the OECD forecasts the former at 39 per cent. The net debt ratio has not risen as much either, by 9 percentage points between 1984 and 1994, against 14 percentage points for gross debt. But the trend is similarly adverse.

Of the seven industrial countries whose debts of government met in Tokyo last week, only Japan had managed a significant improvement in its public debt position between 1984 and 1994. Belgium and Italy already have outstanding net public debt greater than their GDPs. Particularly important, in view of the country's size, is the US deterioration, from a net public sector debt ratio of 24.9 per cent in 1984 to the 40.7 per cent forecast for next year.

High real interest rates put all debtors, including governments, on a treadmill. Since the beginning of the 1980s, long-term real interest rates have averaged between 4 and 7 per cent, says the OECD, with short-term rates little lower. In the stable 1990s, by contrast, real interest rates were 1 to 3 per cent. Consequently, real interest rates have been well above underlying

rates of economic growth for a long time. Even though estimated long-term real interest rates have recently fallen, they remain higher than rates of economic growth, inevitably so during a recession.

The OECD explains these high real interest rates by:

- the fiscal and monetary policy mix, with fiscal deficits, in particular, averaging 3 per cent of GDP since the mid-1970s;
- investor demand for a premium against inflation risk, particularly important in the early 1980s; and
- the liberalisation and globalisation of capital markets.

If real interest rates on public debt exceed the economy's likely growth rate, as they have recently done, governments must run a primary fiscal surplus - an excess of revenue over non-interest expenditure - if the ratio of debt to GDP is to be kept stable. Should they run large primary deficits during a recession, they must run offsetting surpluses thereafter. The task can be daunting. Mr Major's government is now running a primary deficit of 5.7 per

cent of GDP. This is two percentage points larger than the surplus in 1988.

The danger is of a vicious circle from deficits to interest rates and back again. If governments fail to run large enough primary surpluses, global real interest rates tend to rise. As public debt increases, the fear of debt crises also pushes up risk premiums in interest rates. Unsurprisingly, Italy is the only major industrial country whose estimated long-term real interest rates, at 6 per cent, are above their 1980-82 average, despite recession.

Governments that borrow in their own currencies do not default. They inflate. At present, investors are feeling tolerant towards most OECD governments. Whether they continue to do so depends less on whether current deficits are cyclical or structural, which nobody knows, and rather more on when investors think they will end. Governments that expect creditors to be infinitely forbearing are due for a shock.

Martin Wolf

### INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS: PRICES AND COMPETITIVENESS

Yearly figures are shown in index form with the common base year of 1985. The real exchange rate is an index throughout; other quarterly and monthly figures show the percentage change over the corresponding period in the previous year and are positive unless otherwise stated.

	UNITED STATES	JAPAN	GERMANY	FRANCE	ITALY	UNITED KINGDOM
Consumer prices	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Producer prices	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Services	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Unit labour costs	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Real exchange rate	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1985	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1986	101.9	98.6	102.2	98.4	83.7	100.0
1987	105.8	100.7	103.8	74.9	102.5	100.0
1988	102.9	103.8	103.1	123.3	102.5	100.0
1989	115.2	108.5	110.0	111.1	102.5	100.0
1990	121.5	113.8</				

# Goldman urged to return Maxwell funds

By Norma Cohen

**GOLDMAN SACHS.** the US-based investment bank, has been asked to return up to £56m to two pension schemes formerly controlled by the late Mr Robert Maxwell.

The request, made by two former Maxwell pension schemes, relates to transactions in 1990 in which Goldman Sachs acted as purchaser for shares in Maxwell Communications Corporation from the

Mirror Group Pension Scheme and the Maxwell Communications Corporation Staff Scheme.

It is not clear on whose behalf Goldman Sachs was acting, but the shares were later repurchased by two Liechtenstein-based trusts controlled by Maxwell family interests.

This is the first time Goldman has been approached for payment in connection with the Maxwell family interests and their pension schemes.

The requests have been made in letters to Goldman Sachs from the pension schemes, which are now seeking detailed discussions.

Goldman is not believed to have rebuffed the request.

The Mirror Group Pension Scheme last year filed a writ against five UK and international banks seeking about £27m for assets which it claims were wrongfully taken from the scheme.

It is believed Sir John Cuck-

ney, chairman of the trust which raises money for the Maxwell pensioners, is seeking talks with all banks about which the pension schemes are likely to pursue claims.

According to testimony last autumn before the parliamentary select committee on social security, Goldman purchased the shares from the two pension pension schemes but payment was made to a third party, Bishopsgate Investment Trust, a private entity which

acted for the Maxwell family interests.

Goldman Sachs has said it paid the funds to BIF under the instructions of Mr Maxwell's son Mr Kevin Maxwell, who had been a trustee of both pension schemes at the time.

It is believed that the request for the return of the assets is based on two key questions raised by both schemes; first, whether Goldman Sachs could be branded a "constructive trustee" with a specific duty to

safeguard scheme assets, and second, whether it obtained formal authorisation from the full trustee boards of both schemes to act on instructions of individual trustees for certain kinds of activities.

Neither Goldman Sachs nor trustees to the two schemes would comment on whether there had been talks between them over the assets. Auditors have found £440m missing from pension schemes controlled by Mr Robert Maxwell.

## Britain in brief



### IT spending 'may be out of control'

Spending on information technology - telecommunications, computers and software - rose by 9 per cent last year to about £4.5bn and may be running out of control, according to a study today by Price Waterhouse Management Consultants.

Its latest annual IT Review, based on a survey of 1,000 executives in the private and public sectors, found that budgets had overrun for the third year in succession.

The latest increase contrasts with a rise of just 1 per cent forecast by the same executives at the start of last year. It brings the increase over the last three years to nearly 50 per cent, and underlines the difficulties facing IT executives in controlling costs.

report on the gas industry due in three weeks' time. But it has not ruled out putting prices back up after a review.

"Nothing is ready to go on the table; the price rises may be too high, too low or just right, but we will review that," an official said. Some of British Gas's competitors regard the company's decision last week to withdraw price increases of up to 30 per cent as a cynical delaying tactic to remove an area of potential controversy before the MMC report.

### Protest urged on aid funding

Britain should suspend its £620m contribution to the International Development Association of the World Bank until it improves its poor record on aid, according to Friends of the Earth, the environmental group.

Ahead of today's debate on IDA funding in Parliament, FOE says that the IDA has a worsening record of project failure, and that many of its projects have had a damaging impact on the environment.

### Agency work may be split

The work of Companies House, the government's corporate information agency, may be divided between up to 12 private sector businesses, under privatisation proposals being considered by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Responsibility for finding companies which failed to file accounts on time and selling the information they provide would be split between a series of competing registrars.

### Warning on governance

The Stock Exchange is considering publishing companies which fail to adequately explain reasons for divergence from the Cadbury code on corporate governance.

Officials are discussing circulating periodic lists of companies which have not complied with the code, which was published last December, and highlighting individual accounts which do not include a statement.

## BP plans sharp cut in ethylene production

By Paul Abrahams

**BP CHEMICALS,** a division of one of Britain's largest companies, intends to shut down nearly half its ethylene capacity at Baglan Bay in South Wales, removing about 150,000 tonnes a year of the raw material from the European market.

BP Chemicals claims the market in Europe for ethylene, the raw material for most plastics, is suffering from significant overcapacity, poor demand and low prices.

The smaller of the company's two production "trains" at the Baglan Bay site, which have a combined capacity of 330,000 tonnes a year, will not be restarted this autumn following a maintenance shutdown in September. BP insists



Lights out at Baglan Bay: BP says plans to shut down almost half its ethylene capacity will not affect staff in South Wales, one of Britain's jobless blackspots

the shutdown will not affect its 900 staff at the complex, one of the largest employers in the South Wales region.

The production line will be kept operable in case market demand and prices improve.

Mr Stephen Pettit, chief executive of BP Petrochemicals has admitted the site is the division's most marginal. However, it is reluctant to close the com-

plex completely. The remaining train, with a capacity of about 180,000 tonnes will continue to provide ethylene for downstream activities including ethanol, vinyl acetate and styrene.

BP said the maintenance cycle for the larger train would be increased from three years to four years as part of a cost-cutting move.

Most European ethylene manufacturers are not covering their cash costs because of poor prices. Two new complexes - BP's 350,000 tonnes a year expansion at Grangemouth, Scotland, and EniChem's 360,000 tonnes a year plant at Brindisi, Italy - have taken European capacity to 18.5m tonnes a year, aggravating the supply position further.

The market is likely to worsen when BASF of Germany brings on a further 600,000 tonnes a year capacity at Antwerp later this year.

BP believes the European petrochemicals industry must adopt rapid decisive measures or face slow death. It has specifically called on German manufacturers to cut capacity. Mr Pettit has argued that 2m

tonnes a year of ethylene capacity has to be retired in Europe, and that German companies linked up to the ARG pipeline system should play a significant role in that reduction.

At the end of last year BP decided to close its 50,000 tonnes a year butadiene unit at Baglan Bay with the loss of about 40 jobs.

## BA faces dirty tricks questions

By Robert Paxton

**MR BRIAN BASHAM,** the former public relations adviser to British Airways who was sacked earlier this year for his part in the alleged dirty tricks campaign against rival carrier Virgin Atlantic, has launched a campaign to clear his name and embarrass Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chairman.

Mr Basham has submitted four questions for BA's annual meeting. In his submission, Mr

Basham suggests that BA's account of Sir Colin's role in the dirty tricks campaign has been misleading.

Although BA has admitted its use of computer data about Virgin passengers was wrong, the carrier has denied board involvement.

Mr Basham, says in his submission, which has been sent to Sir Colin, that "it remains entirely implausible to me...that you could not have known" of the misuse of com-

puter data. He also alleges that Mrs Gail Redwood, the company secretary, offered her resignation after directors signed a disclaimer denying all knowledge of the alleged dirty tricks campaign.

Mrs Redwood yesterday refused to comment.

BA's annual meeting will be held on Tuesday. The airline said the company had received questions from 2,000 shareholders, a third of which relate to the Virgin affair.

## Thatcher backs EC referendum

By Ralph Atkins

SPLITS in the ruling Tory party over Europe re-surfaced last night as Baroness Thatcher, the former prime minister, said she would back attempts to win a referendum on the Maastricht treaty.

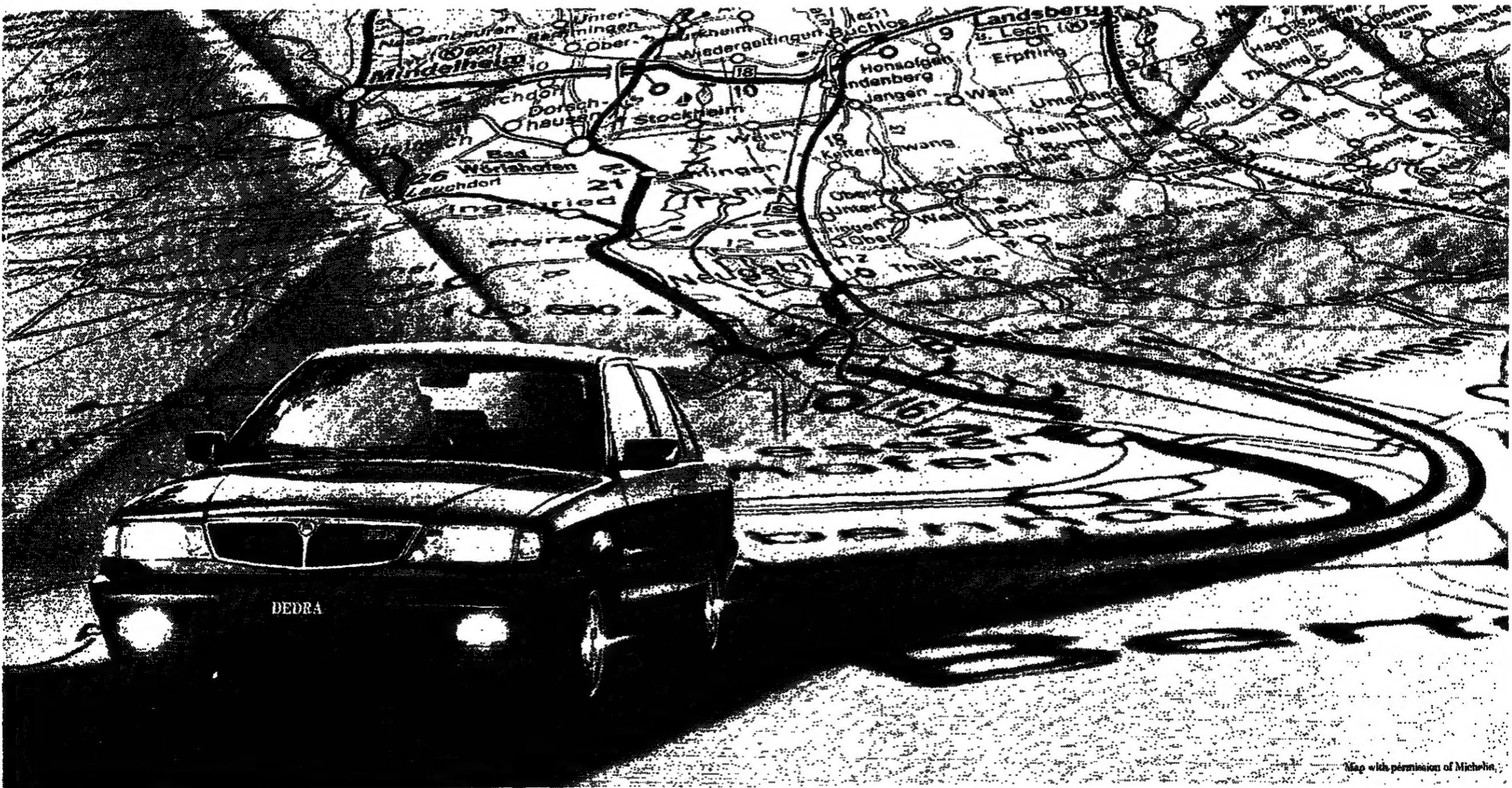
Government business managers are confident that her call for a referendum will be comfortably defeated. But there is more nervousness about debates, expected to be held on July 26, in the Com-

mons and Lords on Maastricht's social chapter.

Mr Bill Cash, the Tory MP and prominent opponent of Maastricht, indicated yesterday he may vote for the social chapter in the hope of it wrecking the treaty legislation.

Government business managers believe many Euro-sceptics will be under pressure from constituency associations not to vote for the social chapter, which most Tories oppose more than the treaty itself.

## LANCIA DEDRA: NO CHALLENGE IS TOO TOUGH.



Map with permission of Michelin

From the people with a passion for cars, the Lancia Dedra arrives in style. Here is all the competitive character of the rallying Lancias in a uniquely civilised form. From under £12,000, why not choose the most spirited contender from the sporting saloon arena? Galvanised† for

action in every respect, the Dedra is a driver's dream. Power, performance and handling are balanced to perfection. Alcantara upholstery and polished rosewood are the finishing touches of a distinctive car where panache comes as standard. Put yourself on the map, in the Lancia Dedra.

The Lancia Dedra range: four engine sizes 1.6ie to 2.0 turbo.  
For a brochure and further details, dial 100 and ask for Freefone Lancia or return this coupon to Lancia, Freepost, Basildon, Essex SS15 5BR.

Manufacturer's List Price (correct at time of going to press) including VAT. Delivery charges (Number plates and delivery to Dealer) are £400 inc. VAT. †100% galvanisation of exterior steel.



NAME/SPN/MSN/ABN (cont'd)	SURNAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
PHONE	POSITION	POSTCODE	HOME
NUMBER	CLEMENT	CAR MAKE	REPLACEMENT
NUMBER	CAR MODEL	YEAR	DATE

DN/PFT/26/6/93



DRIVING  
INSPIRATION



EC capital is flying high  
with airport extension  
Page 2

## FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

**BELGIUM**

Monday July 12 1993

Green light likely for  
Europe's first eco-tax  
Page 3

**As it assumes the presidency of the European Community this month, Belgium is embarked on a course towards a more federalist structure at home. It sees Europe as an anchor for its own political and economic restructuring. David Gardner reports.**

**Euro-devotee calls the tune**

IT IS HARD to imagine any European Community country other than Belgium decreeing a reduction in jail sentences for convicted prisoners to mark its assumption this month of the EC's presidency. Idiosyncratic though the gesture seems, it illustrates the importance Belgium attaches to Europe, and to its place in it.

Belgium, always in the vanguard of Euro-federalism and in the throes of settling down to a more federalist structure at home, takes over management of the Community after a year which has seen a backlash against the Maastricht treaty on political, economic and monetary union, in a number of European countries.

It intends to set a new tone, banking on ratification of the treaty in the UK and Germany by around September. Mr Jean-Luc Dehaene, the burly Flemish Christian Democrat who heads Belgium's four-party Centre-Left coalition, repeated in several eve-of-presidency interviews that over the next six months he is setting the EC's compass to go "not a step further than Maastricht, but towards all of Maastricht".

Mr Dehaene, is quite likely to call a special autumn summit after treaty ratification, with Franco-German backing. The intention would be to relaunch the EC; the practical goal would be to agree the rules, management and loca-

tion for the European Monetary Institute. This is the precursor to the European Central Bank envisaged for later this decade under the plans for economic and monetary union (Emu) which lies at the heart of Maastricht. It must be in place by next January to launch the second stage of Emu.

Mr Dehaene and his colleagues remain convinced of the need for Maastricht and the viability of Emu. They are determined to use their presidency to raise the EC flag from political half-mast, where it has scarcely fluttered for the past year, as first the British and then the Danes held the Community presidency.

They see Europe as an anchor for Belgium's own federalism and as offering a pretext for re-ordering its economy, especially to put its public finances right. Mr Dehaene told the Spanish daily, *El País*, recently that Belgium's European and domestic federalisms "are complementary and indissolubly linked". Yet, Belgian politicians often give the impression that they believe their linguistically fragmented country - divided between French-speaking Flanders and polyglot Brussels - can only survive as a nation-state within firm supranational structures provided by growing EC integration.

That is "taking it a step too



Symphony of joyful expectations: Foreign Minister Willy Claes, baton in hand, will try to keep the 12 EC member states playing in unison this year (see page three)

far," counters Mr Willy Claes, foreign minister and a Flemish Socialist, but he happily acknowledges that, "we have always been in favour of transfers of national sovereignty towards a supranational body."

Under a seven-party deal in May, Belgium devolved national sovereignty downwards, by then have an advisory committee of the regions, an arrangement which Belgium is convinced is the embryo of a "Europe des régions".

That is one reason why widespread predictions in May that Belgium was heading for a Czech/Slovak-style divorce appear alarmist. A provocative statement at the time by Mr Luc Van den Brande, Christian Democrat chief of the Flemish executive, predicted that feder-

their directly elected parliaments.

Securing decisions in Belgium will then become almost as arduous as getting the EC 12 to agree, but, local politicians emphasise, they will have a firm consensus underpinning them, and a comfortable EC umbrella above. It will, moreover, by then have an advisory committee of the regions, an arrangement which Belgium is convinced is the embryo of a "Europe des régions".

So-called Belgo-Belge scraps between Dutch and French speakers are increasingly less melodramatic, partly because of this, partly because politicians from all parties are deeply unpopular - and want to stave off elections as long as possible - and also because Belgium has moved into recession.

In the view of leading economists, such as Mr Peter Praet of Générale de Banque, the separation debate has the merit of focusing attention on Belgium's structural shortcomings, such as its fast-rising social security bill, in both Flanders and Wallonia.

The government is struggling against a serious imbalance in public finances, with a budget deficit of 6.3 per cent last year and a government debt overhang equivalent to nearly 120 per cent of national output. Excluding interest on the debt, the budget is in surplus. The government is poised to stem part of the interest payment haemorrhage by refinancing short-term foreign borrowings into long-term debt denominated in Belgian francs.

That should produce a sizeable reward - perhaps a 1.5 percentage points of gross domestic product saving on the interest bill - for its three-year old *franc fort* policy of tying the franc to the D-Mark.

Convinced it can reach the 3 per cent of GDP target budget deficit for Emu laid down by Maastricht, Mr Dehaene pushed through a BFr10bn tax and cuts package in March, at the cost of the near-collapse of his government. The government also expects BFr25bn this year and next from a four-year privatisation drive which is expected to net BFr70bn. This will put up for sale assets ranging from the CGER/ASLK building and insurance group to Belgacom, the state telecommunications company.

Though Belgium is as much out of step with the Emu criteria as the UK, Italy or Spain, the Belgian franc became a ref-

uge currency, in the currency mayhem of last summer, and did not have to leave the exchange rate mechanism, the EC's currency grid, or devalue. This was a tribute to the credibility of its monetary policy, and Belgium's perceived status as part of the hard core EC currency zone, encompassing Germany, France and the Benelux countries.

With other partners gaining competitive advantage through devaluation, Belgium has to stay within this hard core, to which it sells three fifths of its exports, but it is failing to bear down on indexed and inflationary wage settlements which are blunting its competitive edge. It has opted instead to use revenue from new taxes on non-industrial fuel users to cut employers' social security payments in the exports sector. This will not be enough, however, to close a widening wage gap with its main partners.

In Belgium, these strains threaten the attraction of Emu's goal of a single currency, and even of an earlier locking of parities between the hard core countries once Maastricht is ratified. The latter idea, canvassed by Euro-federalists, is that a *junte en avance* by the stronger economies would establish a target at which weaker partners could aim later.

"I'm in favour of that," says Mr Alfonso Verplaetse, the respected governor of Belgium's central bank, "but I don't think it will happen. This recession could be longer than we think."

Mr Praet says locking parities would be dangerous while there was uncertainty about what was going to happen in a year's time in Germany. "When growth resumes, maybe we can try something more audacious," he adds.

But the longer-term goal of full EC monetary union still looks like a haven to Belgium. As Mr Claes expresses it: "When there are monetary changes in Washington we feel it across the European continent. Are we still not ready to face up to the lessons of the monetary instability of last year, which not one member state was able to resist by itself?"

**J.P. Morgan  
has been in Belgium  
since 1919**

*Offering high-quality banking and financial services to corporations, sovereigns, supranationals, government agencies and individuals throughout the world, is a Morgan tradition.*

*Our activities include providing corporate finance and risk management advice, arranging financing, underwriting and trading securities, managing pension and other investment funds, and operational services.*

**JPMorgan**

Avenue des Arts 35 Kunstlaan / B-1040 Brussels  
Telephone: 32-2-508 8211

How do you pronounce  
**W**allonia?  
**W**allonia?

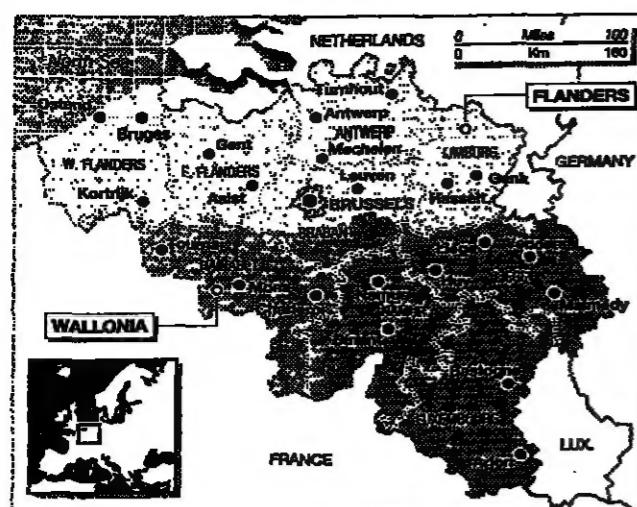
And how come it is **big** news?

No matter which way you pronounce it, Wallonia spells out good news for manufacturers. In independent reports, the French-speaking region of Belgium came out as one of the most productive regions in Europe. Even better - the US Department of Labor singled it out as having the highest productivity in terms of cost per unit in 1991. Put it down to an excellent social climate and a well-educated workforce, coupled with the active support of local authorities and an enviable position (the German, French and Dutch borders are all within an hour's drive). Wallonia has come a long way in the past few years - and intends to go even further. No matter how you pronounce it.



MINISTRY OF WALLONIA REGION (Belgium)  
Investing: O.F.I. Tel.: 32-81-32 14 53 Fax: 32-81-30 64 00 Trading: D.A.R.E. Tel.: 32-2 211 55 11 Fax: 32-2 211 55 70

## BELGIUM 2



KEY FACTS	
Area	30,520 sq km
Population	9.98m (1992 est)
Head of state	King Baudouin
Currency	Belgian franc
Average exchange rate	1991 \$1 = BF 34.15 1992 \$1 = BF 32.15
<b>ECONOMY</b>	
Total GDP (\$bn)	1992 Latest*
Real GDP growth (%)	0.8 0.0
Consumer prices (% chng pa)	2.4 2.4
Unemployment (% of lab force)	11.3 12.1
Benchmark bond yield (% pa, avg)	8.63 7.04
Public debt as % of GDP (year end)	121.0
Current account balance (\$bn)	-4.7 n.a.
Trade balance (\$bn)	-2.5 n.a.
Main trading partners (1992, % by value)	
Germany	23.0 23.8
France	19.1 16.3
Netherlands	13.8 17.4
EC	75.3 73.8

\*Trade figures refer to Belgian-Luxembourg Economic Union. \*\*1992 figures (GDP growth - year forecast; CPI, unemployment - June; bond yield - 5/7/93) Source: IMF, World Bank, Commerzbank, EIU

BELGIUM'S high productivity and export-oriented economy is suffering from recession among its partners, a sharp downturn at home, and the unsustainable expense of a huge government debt equivalent to about 125 per cent of its national output.

Yet it is also well positioned to reap rewards from its *franc fort* policy, linking the Belgian franc to the D-Mark. This tie, tenaciously maintained for the past three years, makes the Belgian government even more determined to link up in monetary union with its neighbours, especially after the European currency chaos of last autumn.

From 1988, Belgium enjoyed three years of high, non-inflationary growth, peak private investment and good corporate profitability, along with big increases in disposable income. But the more than 4 per cent of gross domestic product average growth of 1988-90 slowed to 1.9 per cent in 1991 and just 0.8 per cent last year. This year is likely to see a contraction of about 0.7 per cent, and only a slow pick-up of around 1 per cent of GDP is forecast for 1994.

At home, demand has fallen, new car registrations for the first three months of this year, for instance, were down 19.4 per cent on the same period last year. But this is more due to the general climate of EC-wide recession and rising unemployment. In Belgium, there is no "debt deflation" brake holding back a rise in consumption as there is in the UK and Scandinavia. On the contrary, the size and rate of household and corporate savings is high.

The determining factor in Belgium's recession is the slowdown in its export markets. Its exports are equivalent to about two thirds of its GDP, and nearly two thirds of its sales

## Economy hit hard by general EC climate, says David Gardner

## Export fall fuels recession

broad are to its neighbours in Germany, France and the Netherlands, all in recession. In addition, Belgium's relative dependence on what it earns in the international marketplace is far greater than any of these main partners; per capita it exports nearly twice the amount Germany does.

Export success had fuelled high growth, particularly following German reunification. But the extent of German economic contraction has hit Belgian hard. Germany "delayed the recession for Belgium", says Mr Alfonso Verplaetse, the central bank governor.

The poor outlook for exports has led to annual investment growth coming down from more than 15 per cent three years ago to perhaps minus 2 per cent this year. Company bankruptcies in the first six months this year reached a record 3,079, 35 per cent up on the same period in 1991, when the first signs of a slowdown appeared.

Last year also saw the first volume fall in exports since 1976, and a 1.4 per cent drop in foreign sales at current prices. All this has fed through into lost jobs, with unemployment rising from 9.3 per cent in 1991, to an expected 11.9 per cent this year.

With the franc pegged to the D-Mark, a collateral and dangerous problem has been the higher rate of wage increases in Belgium over the past three years, creating a 4 per cent wage gap with its three main trading partners. Belgium is the last EC coun-

try (aside from Luxembourg with which it has an economic union) to retain automatic wage indexation, leading over the past three years to nominal wage rises nearly twice the rate of inflation, now at around 2.8 per cent. While wage settlements have generally been around or below German levels, the OECD reckons that in 1988-1994, Belgian wages will have risen by 38 per cent, against 30 per cent in France, and 28 per cent in the Netherlands.

"The government has been very slow to recognise that problem," says

Mr Peter Praet, chief economist at Générale de Banque, the leading commercial bank. "It is very clear that in Belgium we have a very deep crisis, in industrial employment, not in services."

A vain attempt to end wage indexation nearly brought Mr Jean-Luc Dehaene's Centre-Left government down in March. Instead, BFr10bn revenue from fuel taxes on non-industrial users are to be mobilised to tighten the high social security charges on employers in the traded goods sector of the economy. This redistribution of the tax burden - the so-called Maribel plan - should close about 40 per cent of the wage gap, according to Mr Verplaetse, provided it can be repeated

next year and in 1995.

The other vital ingredients to retain Belgium's competitive edge are wage moderation and a concerted effort to bring the budget deficit and government debt under control.

Recent signs that wage settlements were easing are already looking ephemeral. Most unions at national level had agreed not to seek real wage increases in 1993-94. But subsequent negotiations at sectoral level have secured rises - after inflation which is automatically added in - of between 1.4 and 3.4 per cent in 14 industries.

Moreover, the higher fuel charges in the Maribel plan will also go into the retail price index and therefore back into wages. The plan may not have as much effect as the authorities foresaw in closing the wage gap with Belgium's competitors.

Public finances have also suffered some drift. The Dehaene government is vigorously trying to get the deficit under control, through a mix of new taxes and spending cuts. The near collapse of the government in March over a BFr110bn budget-cutting package underlined the political sensitivity of the task.

The turnaround in government finances between 1991 and 1991 was impressive. Spending was cut from 58.6 per cent to 51.7 per cent of GDP, with revenues falling modestly from 46.4 per cent to 45.4 per cent. The deficit was thereby cut from 13.3 per cent of GDP to 6.3 per cent. The

balance of the budget after interest paid on debt is taken out, however, moved from a deficit of 5.5 per cent to a "surplus" of 4.1 per cent. Nevertheless, the deficit with interest crept up to 6.8 per cent last year - well wide of the 3 per cent target set by the Maastricht treaty for 1996 for member states such as Belgium determined to be in the first wave of European economic and monetary union (Emu).

Yet in the coming months the government can call in short-term debt, and refinance it long term, and in Belgian francs. "I hope we will see in '94 the real reward for the strong franc policy," says Mr Praet, who foresees a saving on the government's interest bill equivalent to 1 to 1.5 per cent of GDP.

If interest rates in Germany, and therefore Belgium, ease down further, Belgium should be on target for a deficit of around 5.5-5.6 per cent of GDP next year.

The authorities have little doubt that they can and must make it into the first wave of Emu. They point out that the franc became a refuge currency during last September's chaos in the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System - with short-term inflows of BFr122bn, or 1.7 per cent of GDP.

Speculators, they said, ignored the fact that Belgium's current account had a surplus of around 2 per cent of GDP since 1988, and that in spite of the deficit in its public finances, it is a net creditor country through its high private savings. The brief rise in domestic interest rates during the March budget cuts and wage indexation crisis was quickly reversed.

In the future, however, the franc could still come under pressure if wage indexation continues to erode Belgian competitiveness.

Hilary Clarke discusses legislation designed to protect the environment

## Green light likely for eco-tax

BELGIUM is set to become the first European country to introduce a green tax to force consumers to switch to products that have a less damaging effect on the environment. The so-called eco-tax, at present being debated in the Belgian upper house, has put the government of Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene at odds with a range of different industries from plastics and chemicals to French mineral water producers. If, as seems likely, the tax is agreed by the senate, it will become operational next year.

The eco-tax was born out of Belgium's constitutional reforms, the bulk of which were agreed last February. To

obtain a necessary two-thirds majority in parliament for its sweeping constitutional changes which will federalise the country, the government needed the support of opposition Flemish Agavé and French-speaking Ecolo parties. The ecologists, who between them have 18 members of parliament, seized the opportunity and said they would back the government's plans only if it agreed to the eco-tax.

Industry claims the eco-tax will put up new barriers to trade and is out of step with environmental legislation designed to cut domestic packaging waste in the European Community. Belgium's trade

unions, which originally backed the tax, have now joined the employers' protest because they fear it could result in huge job losses.

The experimental tax will be applied to a selected group of consumer items including disposable cameras and razors, paper with less than a certain amount of recycled fibre and domestic chemical products such as weed killers, pesticides and gins. Beer and wine bottles, soft drink cans and water bottles will also be taxed a maximum of 15 francs a litre. Batteries and throw-away razors will have a levy of 10 and 20 francs respectively.

Leading the battle against

the tax are the plastics and chemicals industries. PVC bottles are the only product which will automatically be taxed the maximum 15 francs a litre in a bid to gradually abolish PVC production altogether. PVC is the most recycled material in Belgium today. It is clear there is a prima facie discrimination against PVC," said Jean-Marie Chantelle, head of corporation communications with Belgium's largest PVC manufacturer, Solvay.

French water manufacturers

have joined the Belgian plastic industry in their protest as the majority of plastic-bottled water in Belgium is imported

from France. The French government has lodged an official complaint against the tax with the Belgian authorities. For its part, the plastics industry has complained to the European Commission that the tax discriminates against PVC.

But the tax has also angered a broad range of Belgian industry. "We are not against the principle of imposing a levy on a product to correct damage done to the environment, but we are against an arbitrary and general taxation of the proceeds of which will not be used for cleaning up the damage the product has done," said Georges Jacobs, head of the Belgian Industry Federation.

Environmentalists argue that the tax is the only product which will not be used for cleaning up the damage the product has done.

Environment has been the responsibility of Belgium's regional governments since 1980. Revenue from the eco-tax will be distributed to the Brussels, Flanders and Wallonia authorities who will have control over its spending. The Belgian employers' organisation

Leading the battle against

the tax are the plastics and chemicals industries

says there is no guarantee that money raised, an estimated BFr22.5bn on plastic bottles alone, is used for waste management and environment corrective projects. Doubts have also been raised over how the tax will be collected, although the Greens say the additional administration will be worth it because of the knowledge to be gained on consumer behaviour with regard to the environment.

Following the outcry from industry against the proposals, it was agreed to establish a follow-up commission to examine the impact of the tax, part of a last-minute trade-off between the government and the Greens during their negotiations over the eco-tax. The government-appointed body will have considerable power to modify the law, including waiting until June 1994 before setting final tax levels.

Resigned to the fact that the eco-tax will be introduced in Belgium in some form or other, Belgian packaging users, manufacturers and raw-material producers are developing their own alternative packaging waste reduction programme, PostPlus, which will be based on Germany's Dual-System scheme. Under the PostPlus plans, distributors will pay a levy into a government fund which will be pumped back into industry-run waste management schemes. Industry hopes to persuade the Greens to adopt this system.

Whether the ecologists can be persuaded to do this is uncertain. "An essential element of green thinking is product policy, not just the production process. What's the point of a clean factory that pollutes products?" asks Agavé member Chris Vermeeren, who helped draft the eco-tax legislation.

Industry's other plan of attack is via the European Community. "We hope the European Commission will at least object to the discriminatory clause against PVC," said Nancy Rusotto of the Association of Plastic Manufacturers in Europe.

IT TOOK 30 years of campaigning and the painful assembling of a seven-party agreement to obtain the necessary two-thirds majority, but in May the Belgian parliament approved the final steps to turn the country into a federal state. From now on the national government will be confined to carefully delimited powers.

These will be largely restricted to foreign affairs, defence, justice, internal security, education and social security. All the remaining responsibilities, including economic affairs, the environment, education, cultural affairs, transport, housing, planning, research, agriculture and foreign trade, will be devolved, or already have been, to three regions (Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels) and three language communities - Dutch, French and German.

It has been a step by step process, starting in 1980 when the regions of Flanders and Wallonia were established. A third self-governing region - for Brussels - was set up in 1987, when education was transferred from the national government to the language communities. The constitutional changes approved in May, which will not take effect until after the next parliamentary elections, are intended to complete the picture.

The changes foreshadow a considerable overhaul of the

national parliament, which until now has been an unwieldy and not very influential body, with an almost complete overlap between the powers of the two chambers. Henceforth, the lower house - the Chamber of Representatives - which will be reduced from 212 members to 150, will be the main legislative body.

The Senate, the membership of which drops from 174 to 71, will essentially be a revising chamber. Separate parliaments for Flanders and Wallonia will be directly elected, as the parliament of the three regions will in future be known as prime ministers. The province of Brabant, the only one which has previously been bilingual, will be split into two, leaving Belgium with five French- and Dutch-speaking provinces.

The main inspirer of the constitutional changes was Wilfried Martens, who was prime minister almost continuously from 1979 to 1992. Yet it fell to his successor, Jean-Luc Dehaene, also a Flemish Christian Democrat, to steer the main changes through parliament, a tricky exercise as his left-centre coalition fell far short of the necessary two-thirds majority in both houses.

He managed to get the measures through by a judicious mixture of stick and carrot. The stick was applied to the four governing parties - two

Christian and two Socialist - who were aware of their unpopularity in the country. A government defeat would have precipitated an early general election.

The carrots were offered to three opposition parties, each of whose support was needed. The support of the two Green parties - one for each of the main language groups - was obtained in return for new ecological taxes. The moderate Flemish Nationalists were won over by the introduction of a clause ensuring that residual powers not specifically mentioned in the constitution should revert to the regions.

Will the new changes stick or do they merely mark a stage in a process leading inevitably to separation, as in the case of Czechoslovakia? There are some warning signs, notably the press interview given in May by the Flemish minister-president, Luc Van den Brande. He foreshadowed a much more complete autonomy for Flanders, setting a target date of 2002.

Mr Van den Brande is a member of Dehaene's own party, and his interview, which was applauded by the bulk of the Flemish press, was embarrassing to the government. Yet the excitement soon died down, and a spontaneous march in Brussels a few weeks later, in opposition to separation, drew a vast crowd.



## To share in Europe's future.

The new European Economic Space generates the single most important market in the world. And Belgium is right in the middle of it. Direct access to this wealth of opportunity is one good reason why so many international companies have already set up in Belgium. As host country of the European Community and major international trade and governmental organisations, it is indeed the ideal decision centre for Pan European business. There are other reasons, of course: Belgium's strategic location, its political stability, an outstanding transport and communications network, whereas its highly skilled and motivated workforce has earned Belgium a proud productivity record.

If your company sets up in Belgium, your people will quickly discover good reasons of their own. Like the quality of life in Belgium, unrivalled standards of accommodation and cuisine, a rich cultural heritage. If you want to share in the future of Europe, come to Belgium. There's no better place to start. For your free information pack just contact the Belgian Embassy or Consulate. Or write to:

The Belgian Ministry of Economic Affairs  
Foreign Investors Service - Square de Meeus 23  
1040 Brussels - Belgium - Phone: 32.2.506.54.14  
Fax: 32.2.514.03.89 - Tx: 61932 ecoext.

## ON BUSINESS IN BELGIUM?

ENJOY READING YOUR COPY OF THE FINANCIAL TIMES

\*WHEN YOU ARE AT THE FOLLOWING HOTELS:

BRUSSELS

Amigo - Belson - Brussels President - Brussels Airport - Sheraton - Brussels Europa -

Brussels Cadet - Mövenpick - Capital - Carrefour C. - Europe - Conrad - Copthorne

Stephanie - Hilton - Holiday Inn City Center - Jolly Hotel du Grand Sablon - Jolly Atlantic

Montgomery - Novotel off Grand Place - Park - Président Centre - Président Nord -

Président WTC - Royal Crown - Royal Windsor -

SAS Royal - Sodehotel La Woluwe - Sofitel Brussels - Sofitel Brussels Airport - Stanhope

PROVINCES

ANTWERP

Carilon - Plaza - Switel

BRUGGE

Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza

KORTRIJK

**W**ILLY CLAES, the Belgian foreign minister, brings a rare skill to his presidency of the European Community's Council of Ministers, which Belgium took over at the beginning of July for six months. He is a conductor of some

He took up his orchestral baton at an eve-of-presidency concert, kicking off the Belgian mandate by conducting a rendition of Beethoven's Ode to Joy, the anthem of the EC. He will no doubt be hoping for its joyful reverberations over the next six months, as he tries to keep the 12 member states in unison at a fractious and difficult time in the community's development.

The Belgians are thoroughgoing federalists, at home and on the larger stage of Europe, where they have always been in the vanguard of the "ever closer union" to which the Maastricht treaty commits the Community. But they take over the EC's rotating management in the wake of two Euro-sceptical presidencies run by the UK and Denmark, which were strongly marked by these countries' difficulties in obtaining national assent to Maastricht. The Belgian presidency's unofficial slogan, reiterated in recent interviews by prime minister Jean-Luc Dehaene, is "nothing more, but nothing less" than the full application of the European Union treaty.

That majority of member states in favour of greater European integration are looking expectantly to Belgium to relaunch the Europe of Maastricht and

propel it towards what have recently seemed ever more distant goals of monetary and political union.

Amid a flurry of pre-presidency sumises on how Belgium would try to tilt the EC balance back towards federalism, the government has dismissed suggestions that it will seek an early revision of the strict fiscal and monetary convergence criteria for economic and monetary union (EMU), and flatly denied that it will push for federalist reforms of EC decision-making ahead of the constitutional review foreseen in Maastricht for 1996.

By then, up to four new member states should be inside the EC, if enough Austrians, Swedes, Finns and Norwegians can be persuaded by their governments that this is worthwhile. Most of the crucial points in the negotiations with the applicant countries will be reached on Belgium's watch - and it will be judged in large part on how it handles them.

More streamlined decision-making, implying less room for national vetoes, is seen as the inevitable consequence of the EC enlarging to take in new members. But the present accession negotiations are supposed to get the applicants in by January

1995 - last month's EC summit in Copenhagen decided - with only minor adjustments to EC decision-making.

Mr Claeys told the FT it would be "logical, democratic and fair play" to wait until the new members were in before discussing more far-reaching reforms. But he added that the goal of the Community "is not an economic one but a political one. We need an open debate and a sincere debate in Scandinavia and in Austria on

Maastricht: agreement on two to three areas of its Common Foreign and Security Policy, and the embryo of a common stance on migration and asylum policy as part of the "third pillar" of co-operation in justice and home affairs. "I should think that is more than enough for six months," he says with subtlety but clear relish.

EC federalists have been chastened by the backlash against the Community and the speed of European integration set off

by Denmark's initial rejection of Maastricht just over a year ago. But it is, in any case, fair to say that EC partners who do not share its longer-term ambitions had always expected Belgium to run a pragmatic presidency.

"You can take it from me," says a senior British official intimately involved in the UK's presidency last year, "that they will be completely fair; unlike us, there will be no spin on the ball."

"It is not wise to exaggerate the possibil-

ities and power of a presidency," Mr Claeys says. "We know you need consensus to make progress, and that we are just the go-betweens." But while it is only natural after a year of EC drift for Belgium to discourage high expectations, its presidency faces a series of challenges going beyond its stated priorities.

■ Money. Its first task will be to preside over the share-out of Ecu 157bn in EC regional and structural development spending for 1994-98, when all its partners except tiny, rich Luxembourg are unhappy with Commission plans for spending it.

■ Gatt. The Uruguay Round world trade reform talks will come to a head under the Belgian presidency. Belgium will have to contain growing tensions between France and its partners over the EC's stance, at a time when the Belgian government is increasingly sympathetic to the Paris hard line on farm trade. Mr Dehaene called last November's EC-US breakthrough on cutting farm subsidies "a tactical blunder" in a recent interview, saying it had to be "corrected".

■ EC monetary policy. It falls to Belgium to kick-start the second phase of EMU, due to start in January with the creation of the

European Monetary Institute, precursor of the European Central Bank foreseen at the third stage later in the decade. The presidency will have to arbitrate amid continuing tensions arising from high German interest rates. It will also have to resolve the competition to host the EMU/ECB, as part of a complex package locating other EC institutions.

■ Bosnia. The EC's increasingly bad concern about not doing enough to resolve the Bosnian conflict led Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany to champion lifting the arms embargo on ex-Yugoslavia to allow the Bosnian Moslems to defend themselves. At Copenhagen, the EC instead said it would send more troops to defend the Moslem "safe areas". Mr Dehaene has acknowledged that if not enough troops are sent, the embargo issue will come back.

Beyond this lies a minefield of more mainstream EC business and concerns. On the environment, for instance, the Belgian presidency will have to arbitrate in the increasingly ill-tempered row over German waste exports for recycling, partly by pushing hard to get the stalled EC directive on packaging waste through. Having introduced its own eco-taxes (green tax) Belgium is also committed to the planned EC energy tax to combat global warming. But Britain is flatly opposed to this.

The Belgians will be scrutinised closely, too, to see how well they conform to the EC's new pledge to be more open in its decision-making.

## BELGIUM 3

David Gardner watches the government tune up for the EC presidency

# Symphony of joyful expectations

Andrew Hill looks at plans to modernise Brussels' airport

## Capital of EC is flying high

BRUSSELS has a state-of-the-art airport. Unfortunately for the thousands of businesspeople and politicians who use it, the art is late-1950s.

Between 1958, when the terminal buildings were built for the World's Fair, and 1988, no substantial work was done on the site, apart from the construction of a small satellite terminal in the late 1970s.

But over the same period the city of Brussels has become the institutional capital of the European Community and a magnet for international business travellers and politicians. For these customers - who represent two-thirds of the 9m or so passengers using the airport annually - the 1958 terminal is a disappointment: cramped, shabby, and slow.

Perhaps Brussels airport's only advantage over its com-

petitors is its proximity to the city centre. It can take only 15 minutes to travel by car from central Brussels to the north-eastern suburb of Zaventem where the airport is built - but that is more a geographical stroke of luck than a triumph of airport management, and it is let down by an out-of-date "City Express" train link.

Professor Pierre Klaes, chief operating officer of the Brussels Airport Terminal Company since January, admits that the airport's owners - a combination of the Belgian state and private investors, including the country's largest holding companies - should have done more to keep the principal airport of the self-styled capital of Europe up to date.

Now, at last, the long-awaited improvements are

being carried out. From the window of Mr Klaes's office, the finger of a long, new pier points out towards the runways. Once complete, the extensions should allow Brussels to handle an extra 21m passengers a year - more than tripling the present capacity of 9.3m, to take account of estimated passenger growth forecasts of between 4 and 7 per cent a year.

Posters on the approach road to the airport proclaim a completion date of 1993. In fact,

following wrangles with contractors, consultants, the government and the airlines, BATC is now estimating the new terminal, with 23 additional gates, will be open sometime in the second half of 1994. The company says it will set a formal completion date in September.

The improvements do not come cheap. BATC announced a net consolidated profit of BFr283m in 1991, after tax, but it has had to raise BFr21bn, several billion francs more than the original estimates for the improvements, through a bond issue, to cover the cost of the new work.

The improvements do not

come cheap. BATC announced a net consolidated profit of BFr283m in 1991, after tax, but it has had to raise BFr21bn, several billion francs more than the original estimates for the improvements, through a bond issue, to cover the cost of the new work.

Further cash will be needed to bring the new airport into line with the requirements of the Schengen free-travel agreement, which plans to abolish passport checks for travellers between nine continental EC

countries from December 1. BATC will be given longer to carry out the work necessary to segregate intra-European passengers from international passengers, but Professor Klaes still estimates the cost at some BFr1bn.

Despite that, he says there is

no way that the airport will

rest on its laurels once the im-

provements have been made.

"It's very damaging that we

didn't start work like Schiphol (Amsterdam's airport) or Paris 20 years ago. I think all airports should have work in progress every day," he says.

The airport's managers are

still cautious about what the

future holds. In March, Mr Eric Kirsch, chairman of BATC and chief executive of the state-owned authority which owns 48 per cent of the group's shares, said that the analysis of trends in aircraft movements, passenger and freight traffic in 1992 gave reason for "moderate but deftive optimism".

But he also pointed out that

Brussels was just one of a cluster

of highly competitive airports,

all attempting to be the hub of international and intra-European aircraft operations.

Brussels airport is certain to

retain its head start over competi-

tors as the only airport serving the EC institutions, not to mention Nato and a host of multinational company

headquarters based around

Brussels. But an improvement

in Europe's high-speed rail net-

work could draw passengers to

other modes of transport, and

even entice them to use other

hub airports as a way into

Europe. That would increase

the pressure on the new termi-

nal, and could chip away at

BATC's income, based on retail

operations (40 per cent), airport

taxes and charges for use of

new facilities (60 per cent).

Eurotunnel, operator of the

Channel tunnel, claims a combi-

nation of high-speed train

and tunnel will reduce the

journey between Brussels and

central London to three and a

quarter hours, possibly making

the train an attractive alterna-

tive to flying for some travel-

lers.

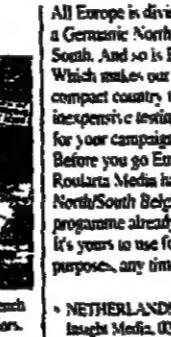
## THE BELGIAN QUALITY MAGAZINES



The Belgian's most influential Flemish/French news magazine and their weekly life-style supplement.



Try in Belgian's Flemish/French monthly mag for refined seniors.



All Europe is divided into a Germanic North and a Latin South. And so is Belgium. Which makes our unique, compact country the ideal inexpensive testing-ground for your campaign. Before you go Europe-wide, Roulart Media has a balanced North/South Belgian magazine programme already in place. It's time to use for testing purposes... any time you want.

NETHERLANDS: Insights Media, 012/531 30-42

FRANCE: Publicis Paris, 1/15 60 00 05

GERMANY: Publicis Hamburg, 040/513 00-40

GREECE: 01/32/30-11-17

JAPAN: Tokyo Representative Co., 03/5270-41-17

GREAT BRITAIN: Oliver Smith & Partners Limited, 7/1/92 14-40

SWITZERLAND: Swisscom International Basell, 04/427-46-46

Publifrance International Luxemburg, 02/120 71 51

Publifrance International Zürich, 01/257 51 11

ITALY: Sipex, 2/26-46-42 15

AUSTRIA: AdMedia, 1/15 70 84-0

LUXEMBOURG: Luxcom Media, 2007 77

KOREA: Kays Ad Inc. Seoul, 02/0490 71 98 13

SPAIN: Publifrance S.A., 1/535 06 12

IRELAND: Publifrance KFT, 1/54-48-05, 111-72-26

FINLAND, SCANDINAVIA: Attac Media & Marketing AB Stockholm, 08-702 18 00

Atrax Media & Marketing AB Copenhagen, 033-14 94 88

NETHERLAND: SINGAPORE: INDONESIA: Singapore Media Services, 060-3-241 39 88

The extensions should mean an extra 21m passengers a year

countries from December 1. BATC will be given longer to carry out the work necessary to segregate intra-European passengers from international passengers, but Professor Klaes still estimates the cost at some BFr1bn.

Despite that, he says there is

no way that the airport will

rest on its laurels once the im-

provements have been made.

"It's very damaging that we

didn't start work like Schiphol (Amsterdam's airport) or Paris 20 years ago. I think all airports should have work in progress every day," he says.

The airport's managers are

still cautious about what the

future holds. In March, Mr Eric Kirsch, chairman of BATC and chief executive of the state-owned authority which owns 48 per cent of the group's shares, said that the analysis of trends in

aircraft movements, passenger and freight traffic in 1992 gave reason for "moderate but deftive optimism".

But he also pointed out that

Brussels was just one of a cluster

of highly competitive airports,

all attempting to be the hub of international and intra-European aircraft operations.

Brussels airport is certain to

retain its head start over competi-

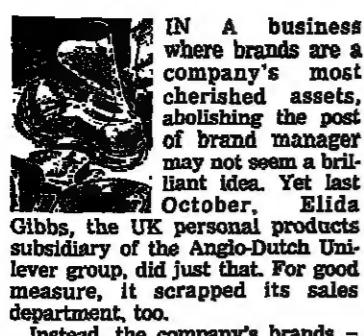
tors as the only airport serving the EC institutions, not to mention Nato and a host of multi-national company

headquarters based around

Brussels. But an improvement

in Europe's high-speed rail net-

## MANAGEMENT



**IN A business where brands are a company's most cherished assets, abolishing the post of brand manager may not seem a brilliant idea. Yet last October, Elida Gibbs, the UK personal products subsidiary of the Anglo-Dutch Unilever group, did just that. For good measure, it scrapped its sales department too.**

Instead, the company's brands - which include Faberge Brut, Pears, Signal and Timotei - are now the responsibility of a new breed of executives known as brand development managers, while the former sales team has been re-born as the "customer development process".

The title changes are far more than cosmetic. Behind them lies a drive to shake up traditional methods which has radically transformed the way Elida Gibbs operates, from research laboratory to supermarket shelf. It is, in effect though not in name, a thorough "re-engineering" exercise.

Tony Burgmans, director of Unilever's worldwide personal products business, compares the upheaval with the recent revolution in organisation and working practices which Japanese competition has forced on western industries such as cars.

In common with many manufacturers in those sectors, Elida Gibbs has eagerly embraced concepts such as teamwork, empowerment and total quality. But unlike them, it has been unable to find inspiration from other companies in the same business.

The experience has turned it into a testbed for new techniques within the Unilever group.

The most potent external force for change was not competition from Japan, but pressure from Britain's

**"The changes would have been impossible to implement without training - it opened people's minds"**

big retailers, through which most of Elida Gibbs' products are sold. By the late 1980s, several felt the company, though still UK market leader, was failing to keep up with the times.

"Two or three years ago, Elida Gibbs' delivery standards were dire and their ordering systems archaic," says Michael Rosen, director of non-foods at J Sainsbury, Britain's biggest supermarket group. "The whole thing was shambolic. They were nearing the point of losing a lot of business." Now, he says, the company is one of Sains-

**There has been a revolution at Elida Gibbs - from the factory floor to the sales team, writes Guy de Jonquieres**

## A clean break with tradition

bury's most efficient suppliers.

The route to recovery began on the factory floor. With backing from Mike Ferry, Burgmans' predecessor and now joint chairman of Unilever, Elida Gibbs introduced team-working at its plant at Seacroft, near Leeds, in 1988.

Responsibility for each production line has been transferred to those working on it, who are encouraged to co-operate continuously to solve problems and improve efficiency. They are also given fuller information about the company's performance and overall strategy.

Initially, the switch faced scepticism from trades union officials and older middle managers. To win acceptance, the company put its 1,000 employees through three-day courses on total quality, run by teachers selected from the workforce.

The changes would have been absolutely impossible to implement without training - it opened people's minds," says Jon Riches, personnel director, who has overseen an increase in the company's training budget from 0.8 per cent to 1.3 per cent of sales since the late 1980s. This year, he aims to give every employee 10 days' training.

The new approach has produced some big gains. In the past three years, change-over time on one production line has been reduced to less than four hours, from a day and a half, while annual lost-time accidents at Seacroft have been cut by three quarters.

In parallel, a drive to improve customer service has increased from 72 per cent to more than 90 per cent the proportion of orders correctly completed. In the past year, "right first time" performance at the plant has risen six percentage points to more than 90 per cent.

The bottom line has benefited. Between 1989 and 1991, pre-tax profits rose by 73 per cent and margins widened from 6.5 per cent to 10 per cent. Though recession checked the improvement last year, sales grew by 9 per cent (see table).

But as experience with the new approach grew, managers became

Elida Gibbs

Inside Cheshire-Pond's UK



aware it needed to go still further. They realised that efforts to boost production efficiency were tackling only one link in a chain which connected every part of the business.

One result was a new policy towards suppliers. In three years, their numbers have been cut by more than a third and they have been given more responsibility for quality control, testing and development. But, the biggest breakthrough has been the recognition that the traditional division of the company into separate functions, such as research or distribution, had become a serious handicap. By compartmentalising management, it was frustrating efforts to speed up innovation and increase flexibility.

Last autumn, management was re-structured into teams and managers' roles re-defined on the basis of core business "processes", such as the supply chain (manufacturing and logistics) and commercial affairs. These "seamless teams", as Burgmans calls them, are intended to involve all parts of the business in decisions at every stage.

According to Helmut Ganser, Elida Gibbs' chairman, the new brand development managers are the linchpins of the system. They are the prime movers behind product innovation and have wide authority to pull together the technical and management resources they need to see projects through. To enable them to concentrate on

the longer-term business of building brands, many of the day-to-day dealings with retailers which absorbed much of the former brand managers' time have been entrusted to the customer development managers. Their priority is to satisfy growing demands from large retailers that suppliers work with them to increase the sales and profits of entire product categories, rather than just push their own brands.

The teams are said already to have broken down barriers and encouraged wider participation across the company. Burgmans says group decision-making has reached the point where "you often don't know who made a suggestion first".

In April, Elida Gibbs launched the first product of the new system. An aerosol deodorant - named Brut Aquatonic - was developed in less than six months, half as long as would have been needed previously.

Burgmans reckons the development time today could be as little as three months. But he stresses the biggest advantage of the reorganisation is that it enables the company to undertake more ambitious projects, rather than just to keep doing the same things more quickly.

Top managers should get a more precise picture of how the reorganisation is working when they review it this week. But the real test of its success will lie in the market - and in the reaction of retailers.

Boots, Britain's largest chemists' chain, says Elida Gibbs now takes a more co-operative attitude towards developing new product markets: "We have a much more satisfactory dialogue than in the past. They now recognise that retailers are far closer to the consumer than they can possibly be."

Sainsbury's Michael Rosen praises Elida Gibbs for "great strides" to improve distribution and service, but says its sales are still spread across too many brands, some of which - such as Pears - it has failed to develop fully.

Ganser at least partly accepts the criticism, saying he plans to focus more support behind fewer brands in future.

But the challenges go beyond the UK. As Unilever integrates its European operations, Elida Gibbs will need to work more closely with sister companies on the continent. It already has Europe-wide responsibility for developing deodorants and a growing share of production is for other European markets.

Not surprisingly, Elida Gibbs' managers are keeping an open mind about the results of the reorganisation. Says Riches: "Ask us again at the end of next year. It is still too early to say we have got it right."

Previous articles in the series have appeared on May 24, June 2, 11, 18, 24 and July 5.

## Spot the tricks of the trade

**It pays to be wary of consultants, says Christopher Lorenz**

**H**ave you ever employed a consultant who turned out to be an organ-grinder, a Swiss cheese, or a Mercedes? Did he or she "fake it", use perpetual motion, indulge in role reversal, or employ the "CIA approach"?

The teams are said already to have broken down barriers and encouraged wider participation across the company. Burgmans says group decision-making has reached the point where "you often don't know who made a suggestion first".

In April, Elida Gibbs launched the first product of the new system. An aerosol deodorant - named Brut Aquatonic - was developed in less than six months, half as long as would have been needed previously.

Burgmans reckons the development time today could be as little as three months. But he stresses the biggest advantage of the reorganisation is that it enables the company to undertake more ambitious projects, rather than just to keep doing the same things more quickly.

Top managers should get a more precise picture of how the reorganisation is working when they review it this week. But the real test of its success will lie in the market - and in the reaction of retailers.

Boots, Britain's largest chemists' chain, says Elida Gibbs now takes a more co-operative attitude towards developing new product markets: "We have a much more satisfactory dialogue than in the past. They now recognise that retailers are far closer to the consumer than they can possibly be."

Sainsbury's Michael Rosen praises Elida Gibbs for "great strides" to improve distribution and service, but says its sales are still spread across too many brands, some of which - such as Pears - it has failed to develop fully.

Ganser at least partly accepts the criticism, saying he plans to focus more support behind fewer brands in future.

But the challenges go beyond the UK. As Unilever integrates its European operations, Elida Gibbs will need to work more closely with sister companies on the continent. It already has Europe-wide responsibility for developing deodorants and a growing share of production is for other European markets.

Not surprisingly, Elida Gibbs' managers are keeping an open mind about the results of the reorganisation. Says Riches: "Ask us again at the end of next year. It is still too early to say we have got it right."

Previous articles in the series have appeared on May 24, June 2, 11, 18, 24 and July 5.

**horse": a low-cost exercise calculated to "front-end" further work on the client. Both are more widespread than Grunberg implied.**

**L**eaping a bevy of other intriguing practices, from "surgical bypass" to "barrow boy", one arrives at the Mercedes stunt, where the client receives everything else is extra. In the Swiss cheese, consultants leave deliberate gaps in the work they tender, in order to "facilitate extensions" from the client, as Grunberg put it.

**T**urning to tricks used when a consultant has hit successfully - by whatever means - and is executing an assignment, Grunberg defined "faking it" as relying on the client's inexperience and lack of knowledge; "perpetual motion" as staying on forever; role reversal as training on the job at the client's expense (which is far from uncommon); and the "CIA approach" as Consulting in Absentia - sub-contracting the work to others in covert fashion.

**T**hen there's "hidden talent" (the exaggeration of per diem work); "car service" (the allocation of general overheads as job-specific expenses); and "carbon copy" - using previous client work without adjusting it. This is one of the most regular (mal)practices of all, too many clients have learned to their cost.

**G**runberg concluded with a list of tips to clients on how to avoid being taken to the cleaners in these and other ways. They included: know what you want to achieve; write it down; identify the real experts; read their tenders very carefully; evaluate formally and on a range of criteria; and treat consultants as consultants, not "terrorists" and negotiate with them, "especially on the detail of the deliverables". Above all, "manage the consultancy" and measure its success.

**G**runberg was too polite to say so, but all that is easier said than done. You may even need a consultant to advise you how to do it.

## PEOPLE

### Meehan moves to Mothercare

Mothercare, the children's and babywear retailer that is part of the Storehouse group, is replacing its finance director.

Mothercare says Paul Ryan, finance director since joining from Budgens, the supermarket chain, in 1988, has resigned from the group to pursue other interests nearer to his Leicestershire home.

His replacement is Andrew Meehan, 38, who joins from Sears, where he has been

finance director of the sports and leisurewear division.

Meehan trained as an accountant with Coopers & Lybrand and spent time at Chase Manhattan and Air Products before joining the Burton Group, where he held senior financial posts in the Top Man, Principles and Burtons chains. He joined Sears in 1987 and was finance director of Selfridges department store before moving to sports and leisurewear.



Mike Jones, 49, who steps down as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

Andrew Coppel, who last week took over as chief executive of the Association of British Insurers on August 10, has been appointed to a newly created post of head of corporate affairs at Sun Alliance, the composite insurance company.

rael  
ria

## ARTS

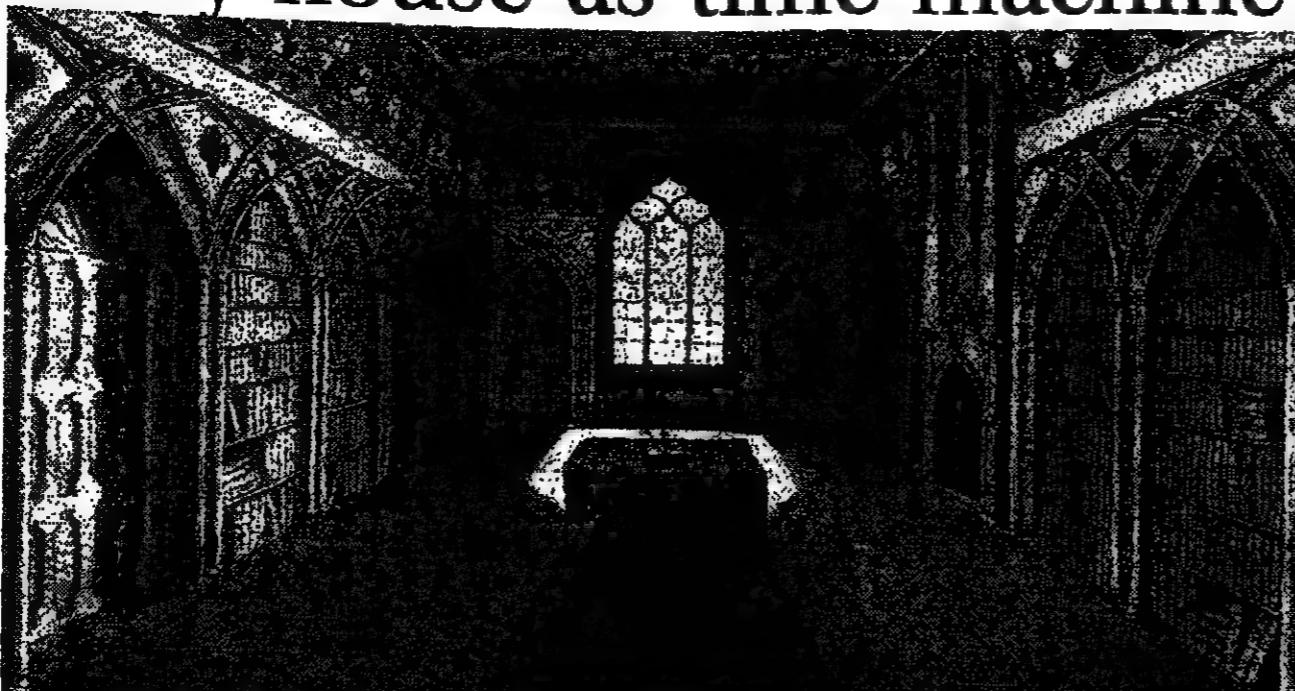
Architecture/Colin Amery

# The country house as time machine

This is the time of year for the country house visit. International tourists and eager National Trust members are paying to glimpse the especially English ensemble of the great house with its collections and grounds. Throughout the land a quiet procession threads its way through silent rooms - carefully keeping on the right side of the ropes and speaking in awed whispers. How much do we really see on the country house tour, and how much do we really understand about what is spread before us?

The great moment aesthetically in the English house is the eighteenth century. To assist us with the understanding of this period a valuable new book has been published: *Eighteenth Century Decoration: Design and the Domestic Interior in England* by Charles Saumarez Smith, (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £50). It is the latest volume in the very comprehensive series that looks at the way interiors are depicted, by collecting together as much contemporary illustrative material as possible. In the case of the eighteenth century there are plenty of architects' drawings, pattern books, paintings and prints that, when they are analysed, present a clear picture of life indoors at the time. A careful reading of Mr Saumarez Smith's book will open the eyes of visitors to country houses and give them a head start in understanding why the rooms look the way they do and how they were designed for use.

There is relatively little published in this country that is serious on the subject of historic interior decoration. Mr Peter Thornton has done a lot to rectify this and his pioneering book on the seventeenth century interior in England and Holland set a very high standard. He went on to write the badly titled but rewarding book, *Authentic Decor* which updates to an extent the work



Eighteenth century allure: a design for a library interior by Bentley

of the master, Mario Prax, who gave us the gospel of interior decoration and its history. Anyone writing about interior design in the eighteenth century in England has to match the work of John Fowler and John Cornforth who published the key work in 1974: *English Decoration in the Eighteenth Century*. Peter Thornton and John Cornforth have tried hard to show that our aesthetic response to eighteenth century rooms may well be a response that is conditioned by the current look of rooms and houses that were all substantially reorganized in 1910.

The author must have found it difficult to select from the quantity of material that exists for the period. He has brilliantly found a great deal of unpublished material, and his commentary also reveals hidden elements in familiar images. He is right to comment upon the growth in importance of the spread of possessions amongst all classes as the eighteenth century progressed. The developing range of manufactured products enabled a wide range of people to see their immediate surroundings as expressions of themselves. The

fine arts express this to a degree - especially architecture which began to organise domestic interiors in terms of the design of rooms and furniture.

One of the best sections of this enthralling book for me was the one devoted to the impact of the great architect Robert Adam. Adam's career defines the second half of the eighteenth century. He went on the Grand Tour in the 1750s and met the influential Charles-Louis Clerisseau in Florence from whom he learned how to study the antique and how to draw. This book shows us some of the perfect results of this study at Kedleston, Syon, Kenwood and Home House. Adam understood the complete nature of a room - how to design walls, floor and ceiling as well as the furniture. Johanna Zoffany as a leading artist and contemporary of Adam also understood the total domestic realm in his

paintings and the examples shown here reveal not just family life but also the totality of the design of rooms and furniture.

The role of the craftsmen and the pattern books of the period is clearly explored in a way that rightly emphasises the importance of the skilled artisan and demonstrates how printed books and engravings helped the spread of stylistic knowledge from France and Italy to London and from London to the provinces.

Above all this book took me into a world of refinement and taste leavened by satire and the perceptions of Hogarth. I left by the end that I had lived briefly in the eighteenth century. I admired Mr Saumarez Smith's learning and visual sense and I coveted the architectural wallpaper shown in an interior of 1780 to the extent that I might well consider copying it.

Theatre/Andrew St George

## Rope ensures a reputation

**F**ew plays now can afford an actor the chance to say "You swine, you filthy swine" without causing a ripple of mirth in the theatre. But those closing lines of Patrick Hamilton's taut psychological thriller, *Rope*, ring like a tocsin round the Minerva Theatre, Chichester, where Keith Baxter has successfully revived the 1929 classic.

*Rope* shows how two Oxford undergraduates, Brandon and Granillo, murder their friend Ronald. They conceal the body in a chest, and invite Ronald's father, aunt and assorted friends to dine off the same chest. But one of the guests, a *louche* poet called Rupert Cadell, discovers their perfect and motiveless crime.

Stage time and theatre time are identical. After two hours, the dinner service is cleared, and the questions from Rupert become more probing. Before Brandon and Granillo can make off with the body, Rupert returns, confronts them, and wrings a confession.

Hamilton's writing is everywhere detailed, the stage directions punctilious. "He responds vaguely, as one who has only half understood". Yet it is also powerful, making psychological sense of the "foul, lewd and

infamous jest", fashioning a drama of Jacobean scope and Jonsonian bravado. The play moves, the thriller genre into drama, but does so by avoiding the whodunit formula.

The direction (Keith Baxter) serves the purpose exactly. Each time new information arrives, the situation and the characters change. The opening, completely dark except for the two actors' glowing cigarettes which identify them, is all tension and uncertainty.

"Do you think we'll get away with it?" The dinner-party performance which follows manages to maintain the sense that Brandon and Granillo are both acting and reacting as circumstances change. The action sprawls over the false-perspective set, a thunder storm worrying at the murderer throughout.

The acting of the three principals keeps pace with the subtleties of Hamilton's plot. Brandon (John Barrowman) differentiates himself neatly from the less expansive and much surlier Granillo (Alexis Denisof). Throughout the party, both indulge the thrill of a healthy crime and the spazzatura of its execution. Both characters drink heavily, and at times stagger round the stage like bleary bacchans at a

stag party. But their interchanges have an excitement and breathlessness born naturally out of their situation.

Rupert (Anthony Head) is all fustianousness and frolic, a cultured creature already world-weary and bored, but witty enough to know it: "Of course I honour my mother. I send them a telegram of congratulations each year on my birthday." Whether the killers will hang depends on his attitude, a kind of late nineteenth-century decadence which finds its own moral standards when pressed. Head has the character down, fiddling at a cigarette, twitching at his cloak.

Elsewhere Simon Chadwick and Debra Beumont are perfect as the hoary guests, while Richard Warwick adds commandatorial weight as the victim's father, Sir Johnstone Kentley. The personality familiar from his tv, film and stage appearances, is in good-hearted, rubber-bodied form; Shiner, the gangly clown from Cirque du Soleil's *Nouvelle Experience*, dominates the evening and is its revelation.

In the spirit of classic vaudeville, there's no semblance of a traditional plot linking the bits that Shiner and Irwin play out alone and with each other, the band, and the audience. What almost holds the show together are the personae the performers adopt, which signal to the audience that we are in a clownland.

Irwin's persona is sweet-faced and bemused, the innocent victim of external forces, like the weird magnetic pull always threatening to suck him offstage, and the unseen prankster who yanks the cord every time Irwin tries to speak into a microphone (neither performer utters a word during the show).

Minerva Theatre, Chichester, until 7 August

on Sat and Berlin Symphonic Sound Orchestra on Sun (2090 2488). Nigel Kennedy and band play at ICC on July 24 (6958 5959). Plácido Domingo sings at Waldbühne on July 26 (301 5055).

**BONN**

• Anna Tomowa-Sintow gives a song recital tonight at Bonn Opera. Tomorrow, Thurs, Sat: Francisco Araiza sings title role in Werner Schroeter's new production of *Werther*, conducted by Michel Sessé, Wed and Sun: Ken Russell's production of *Salomé*. Fri, Sat and Sun: *Cav and Pag*. The company also presents six performances of an experimental Lohengrin opera by Sicilian composer Salvatore Sciarrino, opening at the Kunst und Ausstellungshalle on Fri. The opera season runs till July 25 (773667).

• Sommer-Klassik Bonn's summer concert series includes a Bonn Sinfonietta programme on Wed at Rheinisches Landesmuseum, featuring music by Tippett, Finz, Oscar Straus and Dvorak. Klassische Philharmonie Telekom Bonn gives orchestral concerts at Poppelsdorfer Schloss on July 17, 24 and 31, and at Bad Godesberg on July 18 and Aug 1 (655088/632500).

**DRESDEN**

Seoperoper Tonight: Daniel Nazareth conducts MDR Symphony Orchestra in works by Beethoven and Tchaikovsky, with piano soloist Barry Douglas. Tomorrow: Mischa Maisky cello recital. Wed: Justus Franz and friends play Brahms' Liebesleiderwalzer. Thurs:

Cyprien Katsaris piano recital. Fri: Nazareth conducts orchestral works by Beethoven and Ravel (4842 323).

**FRANKFURT**

• A two-week ballet season opens at the Opera House tomorrow with the first of four performances of William Forsythe's As a Garden in this Setting. Britain's Royal Ballet gives a week of performances starting next Tues, with Anthony Dowell's production of Swan Lake and choreographies by MacMillan and Ashton (236061).

• Final performances of the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical Evita are tomorrow and Wed at Alte Oper (1340 400). English Theater Kaiserstrasse has Alan Ayckbourn's farce Taking Steps daily except Mon till July 24 (2423 1620).

**MUNICH**

**OPERA FESTIVAL** The first two new productions of the festival are Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk starring Hildegard Behrens (tonight) and Die Frau ohne Schatten, staged by a Japanese production team and conducted by Horst Stein (tomorrow and Sat). This week's other performances include Die Zauberflöte and Così fan tutte. A new production of La traviata with Julia Varady opens on July 25. The festival runs till Aug 7 (221316).

**OTHER EVENTS** Gasteig hosts a series of jazz concerts this week, featuring Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, Jacques Loussier, Joe Henderson, Lionel Hampton and John McLaughlin

New York/Karen Fricker

## Fool Moon

*Fool Moon* is one of the most aggressively insubstantial productions to open on Broadway recently. It consists of its two multitalented performers, David Shiner and Bill Irwin, goofing around for two hilarious hours, backed by the evening's funniest segment, bringing people on stage to help him pretend-make a silent movie.

If *Fool Moon* is "about" anything, it's how willing people are to follow Shiner's charismatic lead. Everyone smiles, understanding instantly that he is a silent world; New Yorkers never seen without hands on their pocketbooks surrender fur coats and wallets to him; reticent folk end up rolling around the stage in a passion ate much embrace. Watching others abandon inhibition he thinks that it was the Royal Court influence that led him beyond temptation.

While *Fool Moon*'s lack of structure lands it a wonderful freshness and simplicity, the show does feel slightly under-conceived and under-rehearsed. Perhaps an outside eye - no director or writer are credited in the programme, so presumably Shiner and Irwin filled all creative roles themselves - could have given the show the edge that it needed to become something more than the charming diversion it is now.

Richard Rogers Theatre, Broadway

week's concerts is Richard Goode (247 7800).

• Mostly Mozart Festival continues daily except Sun till Aug 21 at Avery Fisher Hall. This week's concerts are conducted by Gerard Schwarz, with soloists including Christian Zacharias and Dmitri Sitkovetsky (875 5030).

• New York City Opera's 50th anniversary season opens at Lincoln Center on July 28 and runs till November 21. The opening performances are Carmen, La Bohème and Madama Butterfly (870 5570).

• New York City Ballet is in residence for the next two weeks at Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs (518 587 3330).

• STUTTGART/LUDWIGSBURG FESTIVAL Handspring Puppet Company from South Africa bring their Bochner adaptation, entitled Wozeck on the Highwells to the Alte Keller at Bleigasse on Fri, Sat and Sun. The next event is a Royal Philharmonic Orchestra concert on July 23 (07141 949810).

• VIENNA The season of open-air performances in the palace gardens of Schönbrunn runs till Aug 14 and features Don Giovanni and Moscow Chamber Ballet's staging of Mozart's Requiem (513 0851).

• Final performances of Vienna's Jazz Festival are Albert Collins and Etta James tonight, WasNotWas tomorrow, Los Lobos on Wed and Gangstar Quartet with Donald Byrd on Thurs. Performances begin at 18.00 at Museumsquartier,

Cheltenham Festival/Andrew Clements

## Miller's Secret Marriage

*The Secret Marriage* is the well-made 18th-century opera par excellence, which established its own niche in operatic history from the very start when it was encored in its entirety at its first performance.

There may be nothing remarkable in Cimarosa's music, especially for a work six years younger than *The Marriage of Figaro*, or intricate about the development of the plot. But set up its comic mechanism convincingly and the two acts unwind with a succession of surefire jokes and persistent good humour.

Opera North's new production, put before the public for the first time at Cheltenham last Thursday, applies effective enough lubricant to that comic clockwork. The staging is Jonathan Miller's, and marks the beginning of his rehabilitation in British operatic life after more than five years of self-imposed exile since he directed *Candide* for Scottish Opera in 1988. After Cheltenham the show repairs to the Buxton Festival, where it will form one

element in a Miller package alongside his production of Donizetti's *Maria Stuarda* that opened in Monte Carlo earlier in the year.

With designs by John Conklin (a tastefully marbled, duck-egg blue interior) and purposeful conducting by Roy Laughlin in this *Secret Marriage* makes a pleasant, likeable show.

The concept is straightforward enough; the action is transplanted from 18th-century Bologna back to Regency England, to the world in which Colonna and Garrick set the play from which Cimarosa's libretto was taken.

The opera is sung in very clearly comprehensible English (a new plain translation by Simon Rees, not without some seeming unintentional double entendres); Geromino takes on a Yorkshire accent you could cut with a knife - a self-made man from the burgeoning industrial age if ever you saw one - and Count Robinson becomes another dim example of the English aristocracy, doubtlessly mired. It's a sensi-

ble, untroubling piece of theatre, carefully worked out by Miller and peridly rendered by his cast.

Andrew Shore's Geromino is the latest of his portrayals of bourgeois bumptuousness, a bumbling cousin to his Don Pasquale; he handles the accent splendidly, times his entrances and exits perfectly, delivers all his gags with perfect deadpan. He's well matched against Jonathan Best's guileless Robinson and Tamara Dives' bustling Fidolina.

The young people are spiritedly taken. The Elisetta, the American Kate Egan, was making her British debut; she sings cleanly and cultivates a good mode of visible disdain. Anne Dawson is a wholesome, perky Caroline and Mark Curtis a diligent Paulino. All of them are stylish, attentive performers; the pace is never allowed to falter.

Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham; sponsored by Cray Research (UK) Ltd

Theatre/Malcolm Rutherford

## Dubious voice of Satan

Denys Haworth and Sean Murray in *The Terrible Voice of Satan*

**N**ot everything at the Royal Court is wonderful. While David Mamet's *Oleanna* is playing to packed audiences in the main house, a much more dubious production, though also well-attended, is taking place in the Theatre Upstairs. Gregory Mottin's *The Terrible Voice of Satan* is an example of a talented playwright losing his way, and one can't help thinking that it was the Royal Court influence that led him beyond temptation.

Mottin was a specialist in the obscure to begin with, as anyone who saw the recent revival of his *A Message for the Broken Hearted* at the Battersea Arts will testify. He can write beautifully, but it is not always clear what he means nor who or even where his characters are. By the standards of *The Terrible Voice*, *A Message* was a model of clarity. The new play is all over the place, including under the Irish Sea.

The Court must have some responsibility. Most of its best

productions in the last year or two have been either Irish or American. Yet it can be dangerous to point indigenous playwrights to foreign directions.

The Court sent the once promising Martin Crimp to New York to learn about America. He then wrote *The Treatment*, which showed not a hint of American subtlety or the American talent for self-parody. In *The Terrible Voice* Mottin has gone very Irish, but to great avail.

Intriguing apart, the main literary influences on the piece seem to be Marlowe's *Dr Faustus* and, even more blatantly, Coleridge's *The Ancient Mariner*: modest titles for big works - a practice stood on its head by Mottin. A few lines from Mephistopheles in *Dr Faustus* say it all: "Why this is Hell, nor am I out of it. Thinkst thou that I, who saw the face of God, And tasted the eternal joys of Heaven, Am not tormented with ten thousand Hells?" I suppose that's roughly what *The Terrible*

Voice is about. Mottin adds priests, sex, the IRA and a whole lot of gimmicks without moving forwards.

*The Ancient Mariner* comes in with the albatross, in this case a magic bird initially huge and finally slung dead, and much diminished around the waist of the principal character, Tom, as the boat in the Irish Sea runs into a storm. Don't forget that the word "bird" nowadays has more than one meaning.

The play is very well directed by James Macdonald.

There are catching scenes of

miniature cars along a track in the background, and a full-size bicycle in the foreground with striptease and simulated sex somewhere in the middle. Some of the staging draws on the National Theatre's *Carousel*.

I wouldn't fault the performances, especially Sean Murray as Tom, but the play is a terrible fall from grace: *Paradise Lost*.

Royal Court Theatre Upstairs. (071) 730 3534

**ARTS GUIDE**

Monday: Performing arts guide city by city.

Tuesday: Performing arts guide city by city.

Wednesday: Festivals Guide.

Thursday: Festivals Guide.

Friday: Exhibitions Guide.

European Cable and Satellite Business TV

(All times are Central European Time)



## FINANCIAL TIMES

Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL  
Tel: 071-873 3000 Telex: 922186 Fax: 071-407 5700

Monday July 12 1993

## Mr Yeltsin's dwindling power

RUSSIA'S President Boris Yeltsin insisted that he went to last week's summit of the Group of Seven industrial nations in Tokyo as leader of a great power. But at home, the state he represents is looking weaker by the day. Government remains gripped by debilitating and overlapping power struggles between president and parliament, centre and regions. Mr Yeltsin battles to gain acceptance of a complex new constitution, and in the process hands away an increasing array of powers and rights from the centre. And one by one, Russia's regions appear to be seizing their own destiny: in the past 10 days alone, the parliaments of the Far Eastern region and of Sverdlovsk in the Urals have claimed the status of republics within Russia, thus asserting greater economic independence and escalating battle between the regions and the centre for control over resources.

In theory, the outcome of this process could be violent anarchy, as ever-smaller units of population or territory dispute the legitimacy or effectiveness of rule from Moscow and take matters into their own hands. In practice, it has not yet come to that. But to prevent the current mess turning into something a great deal worse, Russia obviously needs greater clarity in the relations between its multifarious centres of power. Ideally, this would be provided by a new constitution setting out in brief, general but unequivocal terms the respective rights and duties of the Russian state and its subjects. Unfortunately, this is far from what seems to be emerging from the constitutional debate which is now reaching a climax.

### Empty rights

Russia cannot continue with its present, Soviet-era, constitution, patched up with liberal additions. Its main flaw, graphically demonstrated at succeeding Congresses of People's Deputies over the past year, is that it gave ample but empty rights to the Supreme Soviet (legislature) and made little provision for an executive president. Despite the popular mandate with which he was elected in 1991, Mr Yeltsin's attempts to run a democratic presidential republic with a communist "parliamentary" constitution were doomed to end in confrontation.

The problem is that this struggle cannot begin to be decisively

## Defining the fiscal deficit

THE DEBATE over the UK budget deficit is taking place in a fog of spurious assertions about how much of it is "cyclical" and how much is "structural". It is a crucial question, but the truth is that no-one will know the answer for a number of years, if ever. In the meantime, the government should focus more on reducing the deficit and rather less on defining it.

At a meeting of European Community finance ministers Kenneth Clarke will today be defending the British government's economic plan against the charge that they betray undue optimism about the £50 billion budget deficit. The criticism is partly based on John Major's claim that 70 per cent of the gap is cyclical, and will therefore fall as the economy picks up. EC officials consider this dangerously complacent, citing OECD estimates that less than half of the deficit, now 8 per cent of GDP, can be so summarily dismissed. The rest, they say, is a structural increase in spending that requires further attention. Which is right?

The sheer size of the gap between deficit "cyclists" and "structuralists" is a good cue that the desire for precision is misplaced. Both sides could make things clearer, however, if they bothered to separate two distinct issues. First, what part of the rise in public borrowing has occurred as a result of the recession? And second, how much of that will go away as the economy picks up again? The first question can be answered relatively easily. Unfortunately, it is not the one upon which the sustainability of the British public finances depends.

### Lower tax revenues

The automatic effects on the budget of the recent decline in UK output are quite well understood. If, in 1990, the British economy had continued to grow at a steady pace, output would now be around 7 per cent higher. Losing that output to the recession led to higher public spending and lower tax revenues which between them left the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement 4.75 per cent higher as a percentage of GDP than it would otherwise have been.

**J**ust before the International Olympic Committee meets in Monte Carlo in September to choose where to stage the 2000 games, a trade mission from north-west England plans to fly to Paris.

The idea is to take advantage of the publicity surrounding Manchester's Olympic bid. Members of the mission, put together by Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the accountants, lawyers, bankers and business advisers who make up the city's Financial and Professional Forum, will be talking to their opposite numbers in the Paris chamber about doing more business together.

Such marketing is part of a new age of civic entrepreneurship in Europe, according to Professor Michael Parkinson, director of the European Institute for Urban Affairs at Liverpool John Moores University. He says it started less than 10 years ago, with several of Europe's old cities fighting back against what was widely seen as terminal decline.

Public and private sectors have banded together, sometimes informally, sometimes through organisations formed to promote the cities they depend on for a living. All have pushed cities rather than regions, and broad economic development rather than solutions to specific urban social problems.

Parkinson's institute - which used to be the Centre for Urban Studies at Liverpool University, but negotiated transfer to the more entrepreneurial "Liverpool John" last year - has recently completed a three-year study of 24 cities for the European Commission\*.

One of the most telling examples is Hamburg. In 1985 its chamber of commerce and 10 leading banks set up the Hamburg Business Development Corporation to attract new companies and improve support for existing ones. Target sectors were the media, information technology, electronics, aviation, medicine, biotechnology, harbour services and environmental technologies.

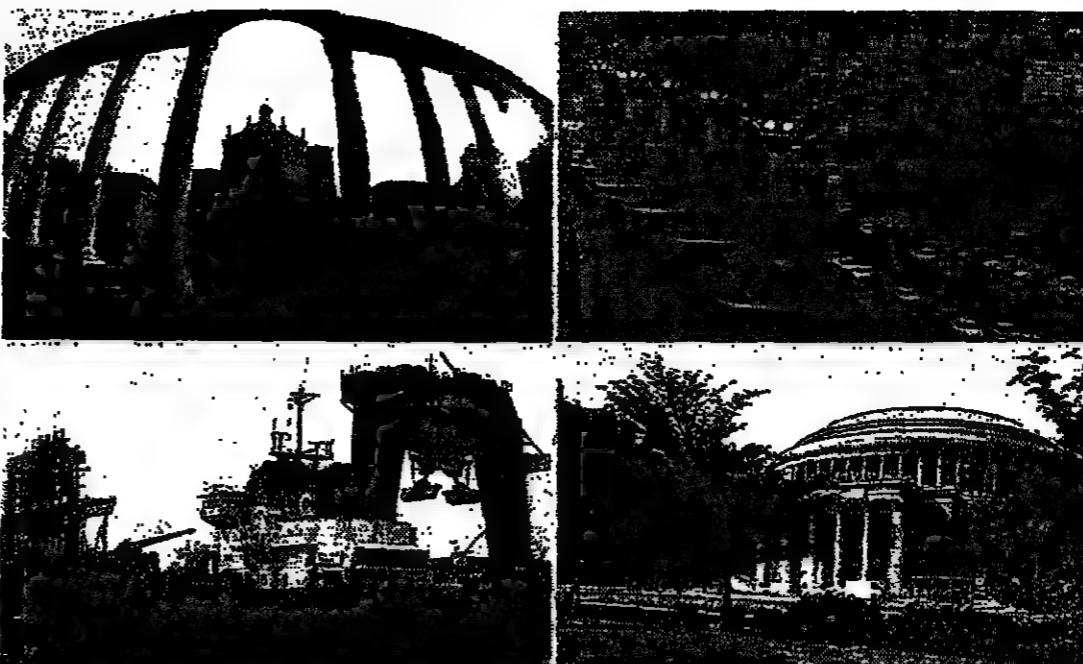
Udo Martens-Jebe, the corporation's director, says its first five years brought in 387 new companies, 81 from Germany, the rest from Scandinavia, Taiwan, China, the UK, Japan, Korea and the US. The corporation acted as consultant to 765 businesses. She says an estimated 16,000 jobs were created and capital investment of DM8.7bn (£1.45bn) boosted construction.

Other cities have used particular events as a focus for team-building. Manchester's Olympic bid is an example. According to KPMG Peat Marwick, the accountant, Manchester's bid will be worth £200m to the city even if the bid fails.

Last week, Ogden, a leading US entertainment management group, signed a 20-year contract to run the

# In search of the urban idyll

There is a new spirit of civic entrepreneurship in Europe's cities, says Ian Hamilton Fazey



A tale of resurgent cities: clockwise, Milan, Barcelona, Manchester and Rotterdam

Manchester arena from its opening in 1995. The group will create more than 700 jobs in the city.

Other cities behaving in an entrepreneurial manner include:

- Rotterdam's development board, Rotor, a joint venture of the municipality and the chamber of commerce. It works as a think-tank, helping to balance social concerns such as poor housing with economic solutions.

The city's publicly owned port authority modernised the docks and improved the local transport infrastructure. Parallel investment in office space by the private sector during the 1980s has been justified by annual growth of up to 10 per cent in the numbers employed in professional services. A "brainpark" for small, high-technology companies was set up near a university.

- Dortmund's civic leaders developed closer ties with the private sector after a large factory closure in 1981. As a result, the emphasis switched from social to economic priorities.

Research and development centres for transport technology and

robotics were attracted, and a technology transfer system set up between university, polytechnic and the chamber of commerce.

- Montpellier evolved what it called a "technopole" strategy in 1988 - a development agency supported by all sectors of the community to focus growth on medicine, computer technology, agronomics, communications and leisure.

Cities are back on the agenda, not as basket cases but as economic leaders," Parkinson says. "Cities have to be re-evaluated. They need to be recognised as the wealth of nations. They are great sources of added value. In Europe, there is an emerging network of cities with similar entrepreneurial outlooks."

He suggests the most successful entrepreneurial cities are those which have defined themselves as European, rather than by their regional or national roles. Glasgow, Manchester, Birmingham, Rotterdam, Hamburg, Barcelona, Lyons, Lille, Dortmund, Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Lyons and Edinburgh.

A network of successful cities, therefore, seems to be emerging across Europe, with each a focus for

growth and regional economic hegemony. Even the urban population decline of the 1970s and 1980s is slowing as old cities bounce back.

Parkinson says: "After 15 years of decline, at some point in the mid-1980s, big cities started to grow again, or at the very least, they started stabilising. The trend is solid and is reversing the former outward drift of population. We are developing a Europe of the cities, not a Europe of the regions."

One problem of such patchwork economic development is that benefits are not evenly distributed between cities, within them, or between cities and the regions around them. In some cases, inequalities are emerging between neighbours. Marseilles, for example, has not developed a coherent strategy like Montpellier and, Parkinson says, lags in economic development.

**L**iverpool similarly lags behind Manchester, only 35 miles away. This is partly because it is smaller, with a less diverse economic base. One in six men traditionally earns a living through manual work. Male unemployment rates of about 25 per cent have fuelled internal divisions in the city and - for 10 years to 1991 - caused image-damaging political strife. Only this year have public and private sectors set up an office to work together - seven or eight years behind comparable cities.

Even within successful cities, individual beneficiaries are mainly educated, qualified or trained people. Parkinson warns: "You have a polarised labour market, overlaid with the problems of ethnic minorities and immigrants. Some people are being excluded. We found that Hamburg has more millionaires than anywhere else in Europe, but more people on welfare. One of the key challenges of the next couple of decades will be how to include the excluded. Another will be how to improve a city's competitiveness without increasing the social cost."

One problem for the European Community is that it allocates funds for economic development on the basis of reducing regional imbalances. But this means two cities with similar problems are treated differently because of their geographical location.

If the Europe of the cities thesis proves correct, it may require some shift in the way the EC targets its regional aid. But the bigger implication is that, as cities compete in the way that corporations do, the case for better urban government, capable of taking a long view about investment in infrastructure and human resources, will become ever more irresistible.

"Urbanisation and the Functions of Cities in the European Community, EC, Luxembourg, Ecu13.

## Samuel Brittan

# Trade and macroeconomics



The Tokyo trade package is likely to help growth, jobs and output, even though some of the estimates given by summit participants are highly misleading. The main reason growth should

benefit is given by that unsatisfactory, but occasionally unavoidable, word "confidence". News that increases the chances of a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round should raise what Keynes called the "animal spirits" of businessmen when they consider whether to invest, increase stocks or take on workers.

Although this effect is probable, I am much more certain of a negative statement. A breakdown of the Gatt talks and the associated risk of trade wars, would dealt a severe blow to confidence at a time when it is fragile and would have risked turning prolonged recession into depression.

In contemporary debates, macroeconomists have used the threat of

"increased protection" (please not "protectionism", which adds a redundant extra syllable and should be used only to describe the belief, not the phenomenon) to browbeat their opponents about what would happen if their own favourite nostrums failed to be accepted.

There is a more interesting reason for the lack of contact between the two worlds. This is the difficulty of making true intellectual contact, which goes back a very long time. In most popular histories of the Great Depression, the savage increase in the US tariffs under the Smoot-Hawley Act of 1930 is given a large role in converting the recession of the early 1930s into the Great Depression. Yet it receives hardly a mention in many monetarist and Keynesian accounts. I can find no reference to it in anything related to it in either Friedman's *Monetary History* or Galbraith's *Great Crash*.

In contemporary debates, macroeconomists have used the threat of

increase in trade between countries, not of output, not of welfare and still less of employment. Free trade reallocates jobs more efficiently inside each country but does not directly destroy or create new jobs.

There are yet further reasons for the embarrassment of economists on trade issues. They can be summed up by Friedman's saying: "Protection is better in theory; free trade is better in practice." There have been recurrent complicated theories over the centuries trying to show that there are benefits to individual countries from certain carefully chosen kinds of protection.

The May issue of the American Economic Review is partly devoted to professional disquiet on what the public and their students should therefore be told.

Professor Paul Krugman, who has invented many of the supposed exceptions to free trade theory, now believes that the likely benefits are small; that any exceptions will be wrongly chosen; and that undergraduates will benefit more from a

## High merit, low hope

■ What price a Brit as next president of the European Commission in the wake of last week's successful trade negotiations?

With Jacques Delors due to go at the start of 1995, there's little doubt who'd be the UK's ideal choice: EC trade commissioner and former cabinet minister, Sir Leon Brittan. Whitehall has been impressed by his skill in gridlocking the market opening negotiations of the "quad" group of countries to Britain, as well as by his performance at the G7 summit in Tokyo.

Mr Clarke may be unable to control either the degree of spare capacity in the economy or the rate at which it grows over the next few years. He can, however, determine how much any given rate of growth goes towards reducing the PSBR. Considering the stakes involved, he should commit himself to tightening fiscal policy further, as a hedge against disappointing growth. If this turns out to be over-cautious, he could always compensate by lowering interest rates. Better that he lose the prize for labelling the deficit correctly than risk the horrors of an old-fashioned public debt crisis.

Alas, whatever Brittan's merits, his home country would look to have little hope of securing the

EC commission presidency for him even if further trade talks in Geneva bring a successful end to the long-stalled Uruguay Round.

For one thing, it isn't all that long since the UK supplied the president: Roy - now Lord - Jenkins held the post in the late 1970s. For another, regardless of Premier Major's rhetoric about Britain being at the heart of Europe, London would find it hard if not impossible to win support for a Brit for "federalist" EC number six.

So the UK will probably concentrate on blocking any overtly "federal" candidate for the post. Hence former Belgian prime minister Wilfried Martens could expect a veto from London, as likewise might Felipe Gonzales if he decides to abandon the Spanish premiership for Brussels.

From a UK viewpoint, the Netherlands' premier Ruud Lubbers would be a more desirable candidate to replace the departing Delors. True, like most Dutch politicians, Lubbers believes in a federal future for Europe. But he is a free marketeer and, as such, stands well in John Major's esteem.

## Bargain issue

■ Somewhat misunderstanding the recent reports that people wanting to adopt children may be charged \$1,500 a time, a reader has called offering his five sons for instant sale.

completes its trials in the Mediterranean later in the summer, will set course for California and the South Seas.

A sign that the News Corporation boss is beginning to wind down for retirement? On the contrary, the buzz round the fleet is that it more probably portends his intention to establish new business heads-in Asia.

Accordingly - and even though, at 100ft-plus overall, the vessel is modest compared with the flagships of other media moguls - it would be more fitting to address him as Admiral than Cap'n.

## Flotation

■ As the New York Post sinks in the west, Rupert Murdoch is evidently preparing a new launch in the Pacific. Although he gave up keeping a yacht after moving from Australia to London, his move to sunny Los Angeles has set sea fever burning again.

The result is a custom-built sailing boat which, if it successfully

completes its trials in the Mediterranean later in the summer, will set course for California and the South Seas.

A sign that the News Corporation boss is beginning to wind down for retirement? On the contrary, the buzz round the fleet is that it more probably portends his intention to establish new business heads-in Asia.

Accordingly - and even though, at 100ft-plus overall, the vessel is modest compared with the flagships of other media moguls - it would be more fitting to address him as Admiral than Cap'n.

## Team effort

■ Meanwhile, even if the New York Post is bound for the breakers, Murdoch could at least prevent the Big Apple's favourite baseball club from transferring its flag to another city.

That is the fate being threatened for the New York Yankees by their tempestuous owner George Steinbrenner. And though he has mouthed menaces before, this time he seems deadly serious.

The Yankees' successes haven't stopped attendances from falling by more than a third these past five years, which Steinbrenner blames partly on the rundown stadium, nicknamed the Bronx Zoo after its site in one of the poorest districts around. Put bluntly, his ultimatum is that either New York helps to rebuild the stadium, or

the team will leave for financially friendlier climes.

Understandably, being desperate to revive the impoverished South Bronx, New York's governor Mario Cuomo wants the Yankees to stay put. But if Steinbrenner insists on moving when his lease expires, then Cuomo would like to set up the club up on a 30-acre site west of midtown Manhattan.

In which case, it is hoped, Murdoch might be tempted to finance the building of a new home for the Yankees as part of a huge new entertainment complex. After all, while the plan sounds mighty expensive, it is of a scale to match his far from under-developed ego, not to mention those of Cuomo and Steinbrenner to boot.

The three of them have already had a preliminary discussion, Observer hears.

## Pint taken

■ Even if Manchester's bid to host the Olympics fails owing to lack of sun, the local nightlife is clearly bidding for intellectual acclaim.

In September, Manchester's Institute for Popular Culture is hosting two days of egg-head discussions on the economic impact of the evening economy of cities, in which the star attraction will be a chance to "experience Manchester's night-time economy at first hand".

Do they mean a pub crawl, by any chance?

Monday July 12 1993

## Germany suggests EC funds for French farms

By Peter Norman, Economics Editor, in London

GERMANY has suggested channelling European Community funds to French farmers to win France's support for an agreement cutting farm subsidies in the Uruguay Round of trade liberalisation talks.

The suggestion came in advance of today's resumption of the long-dormant Uruguay Round of talks in Geneva, at which negotiators from the so-called Quad countries - the US, the European Community, Japan and Canada - will brief trading partners on their tariff-cutting deal reached at last week's Group of Seven summit in Tokyo.

Mr Günter Rexrodt, the German economics minister, said at the Tokyo meeting that financial concessions could play an

important role in winning "one European Community partner" for an agreement on agricultural trade.

The German minister did not name France in his remarks to journalists. However, French objections are holding up an EC-US agreement on reducing subsidies in agricultural trade that could form the basis of further international negotiations under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Mr Rexrodt said he considered that farm trade problems would prove to be the "sticking point" in reaching a final pact on global trade liberalisation and that the most important issue was working out how much subsidised farm produce could be exported by the EC and the US.

He believed that problems of agricultural trade could be dealt

with through a financial agreement that would enable "an EC partner country" to overcome structural and regional problems more easily than at present.

He admitted, however, that there would be less money available for other EC countries if Community funds were used to compensate farmers in one state for any losses arising from a deal on farm trade in the context of the Uruguay Round.

The individual EC countries do not negotiate in the Uruguay Round - that task is left to the European Commission. But Mr Rexrodt stressed that he was close to the talks, partly because Mr Mickey Kantor, the US trade representative, had approached the German government before to mediate in disputes between the US and France.

He believed that problems of agricultural trade could be dealt

US-Japan trade deal, Page 4

## Nadir strengthens links with government of north Cyprus

By John Murray Brown  
in Istanbul

MR ASIL NADIR, the fugitive businessman, was due to meet with north Cypriot president Rauf Denktash last night, for the first time since he fled the UK in May. The meeting comes amid further signs the island government is co-operating to block the efforts of the administrators to Polly Peck International, Mr Nadir's former company.

On Friday, the finance ministry announced that a pharmaceutical plant belonging to Polly Peck International, Mr Nadir's former company, would be auctioned to settle debts owed to the breakaway north Cypriot government. The government says it is owed £1.45m (£4m) in unpaid debts to the local social security agency.

The administrators were earlier close to concluding the sale of ICP, the drug company, and had convened a shareholders' meeting for July 27 in a move to replace Mr Nadir as a director.

Local lawyers say the government's latest action is seen as further collusion with Mr Nadir to frustrate the sales of the northern Cyprus assets - one of the last hopes of raising cash for the 23,000 PPI creditors, owed a total of £1.5bn (£5bn).

In London last week, in a move aimed at winning over the northern Cyprus authorities, Mr Christopher Morris of Touche Ross, one of the three court-appointed administrators, formally apologised to the Turkish Cypriot central bank over allegations of fraud and money laundering in a suit against the bank and other plaintiffs in October 1991.

As the biggest shareholder of ICP, the administrators are seeking to get around this by calling an extraordinary meeting for July 27 to replace Mr Nadir and other directors, as a first step to selling the company.

Last night Mr Nadir, the former chairman of Polly Peck International, was expected to meet both Mr Denktash and Mr Dervis Eroglu, the prime minister, at a party to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Kibris.

## Visa service

Continued from Page 1

days, but would guarantee a six-day transfer. He said it would also guarantee a clear quotation of charges and exchange rates at the start.

Royal Bank of Scotland is planning a corporate launch of its ibos transfer system run with Credit Commercial de France, Banco Santander in Spain and Banco de Commerce e Industria in Portugal. Ibis offers virtually instant transfer.

National Westminster Bank is also thought to be working on a new cross-border payment system with Société Générale of France and Commerzbank of Germany.

## Bosnian federation plan

Continued from Page 1

republic along ethnic lines despite the urging for an agreement from international peace mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg or face disaster in the winter.

Mrs Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the Bosnian operation was running out of money and called for a conference in Geneva on Friday to discuss the considerable problems impeding the relief effort.

While she did not say that the UNHCR would pull out of Bosnia, she accused all three sides of sabotaging the relief operation.

"Every day is quite a difficult

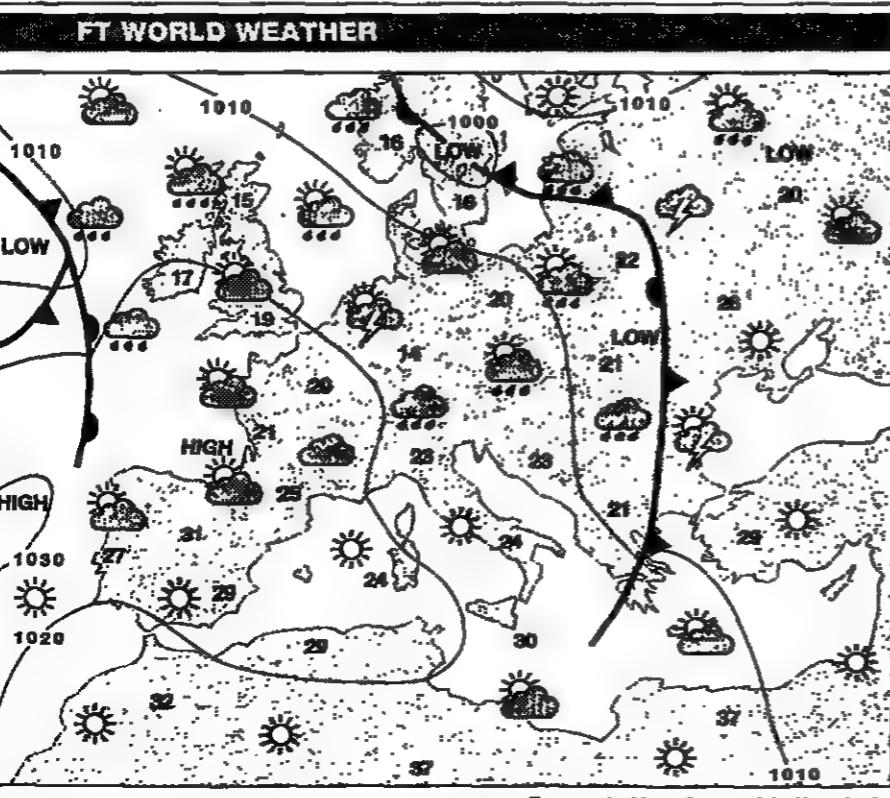
day to decide or to know what we can do," she told BBC radio, adding that money supplies would last only for the next three weeks. Mrs Ogata's remarks came as water supplies dipped dangerously low in Sarajevo. The Bosnian capital has no electricity, oil or gas.

Meanwhile, hospitalised opposition leader Vuk Draskovic was recuperating at the weekend after he abandoned his hunger strike. Fearing mass unrest if Mr Draskovic died, Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic on Friday ordered the pardon of the opposition politician and his wife, Danica, who were arrested during violent anti-government protests on June 1.

Pressure on the Christian Democrats to distance themselves from the corruption scandal has been reinforced by the strength of the federalist Lombard League. At its annual meeting in Pontida, near Bergamo, Mr Umberto Bossi, the League's leader, yesterday threatened to declare a tax strike if President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro did not call a general election after parliamentary approval of the 1994 budget later this year.

Mr Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, prime minister, met senior cabinet colleagues yesterday to discuss the government's budget plans for 1994-95.

Next year's budget is expected to contain measures, mainly spending cuts, to reduce the estimated £180,000m (\$1170m) budget deficit by between £15,000m and £40,000m next year.



### Europe today

A frontal zone will cause rain over southern Scandinavia, western Russia and Romania. Ahead of the front, it will be sunny in southern Russia and Turkey. Over northern Scandinavia, it will be mainly cloudy, but dry. Showers, locally with thunder, will develop over Germany, Poland and the Alps. Over the Low Countries and England there will be sunny spells, but in Ireland, it will be mainly cloudy with some rain later. Temperatures will remain rather low for this time of the year over the north-west of Europe. Over Greece, there will be some clouds, but elsewhere in southern Europe, it will be sunny and temperatures will rise to 25C-31C.

### Five-day forecast

Depressions will move from the British Isles to the north-west of the Continent and this will bring a fair amount of rain to the UK and the Low Countries. The temperature will slowly rise to more seasonal levels. In southern Scandinavia a local shower will form. Thundery showers will develop over central and eastern Europe from Wednesday on. Also, Italy will have some showers. Over Spain and Portugal, it will be mainly sunny and temperatures will reach 30C.

### TODAY'S TEMPERATURES

	Maximum	Berlin	shower	19	Chicago	sun	28	Faro	sun	30	Malaga	sun	28	Rangoon	shower	30
Abu Dhabi	sun 38	Bermuda	shower	30	Cologne	cloudy	17	Frankfurt	shower	19	Malta	sun	28	Reykjavik	rain	14
Accra	thunder 27	Birmingham	fair	18	Copenhagen	cloudy	18	Geneva	rain	18	Manchester	fair	21	Riyadh	sunny	44
Aigues	sun 29	Bombay	shower	21	Dusseldorf	shower	20	Glasgow	fair	18	Marina	cloudy	22	Rome	sunny	28
Amsterdam	fair	Bordeaux	fair	22	Dallas	fair	22	Milan	shower	19	Munich	shower	22	Santiago	cloudy	27
Athens	fair 26	Bordeaux	fair	17	Darwin	fair	20	Helsinki	sun	22	Medina City	shower	20	Seoul	cloudy	27
Bangkok	cloudy 34	Budapest	shower	22	Delhi	rain	21	Hong Kong	shower	32	Miami	fair	33	Singapore	cloudy	31
Buenos Aires	sun 24	Buenos Aires	cloudy	24	Dubai	fair	21	Honolulu	fair	31	Milan	rain	23	Stockholm	rain	20
Beijing	rain 28	Carlo	sun	37	Dublin	cloudy	18	Istanbul	fair	31	Montreal	fair	27	Stockport	shower	12
Belfast	cloudy 17	Cape Town	fair	17	Dubrovnik	fair	27	Jersey	fair	17	Moscow	shower	17	Tel Aviv	sunny	33
Belgrade	cloudy 21	Caracas	cloudy	28	Edinburgh	showers	16	Karachi	cloudy	33	Nairobi	fair	24	Tokyo	shower	28

Our service starts long before takeoff.

**Lufthansa**  
German Airlines

## Reformers step up challenge to Italy's main party

By Maia Simionescu in Milan

MR MARIO SEGANI, the popular leader of Italy's referendum movement, is expected to join forces with the cross-party Democratic Alliance movement this week in a union that could form the basis for a new, broad-based party capable of challenging the majority Christian Democrats for the political middle ground.

Mr Segni, who broke away from the Christian Democrats earlier this year, has been a leading advocate of political reform and clean government. The Democratic Alliance is a loose reformist movement set up by politicians who have left their parties in recent months in protest at corruption and obstacles to political reform.

Members include Mr Giorgio Ruffolo, the former Socialist environment minister, and Mr Giuseppe Ayala, previously a leading anti-Mafia judge and now a Republican MP.

Delegates at the Alliance's national convention in Florence on Saturday were read a message from Mr Segni suggesting the movement should now move towards transforming itself into an official political party. His message came as tension increased within the Christian Democrat party, which has been discredited by the corruption scandal.

Ms Rosi Bindu, a regional party member who has spearheaded calls for reform proposed at the weekend to make the party's Veneto region the testbed for change. Addressing a conference in the spa town of Abano, Ms Bindu proposed changing the party's name and adopting a reformist programme.

Her demands come just a fortnight before a crucial Christian Democrat national convention, which may mark the party's last chance to agree on changes, possibly including a new name, before others follow Mr Segni's example. The party could break up if reform does not come quickly.

Pressure on the Christian Democrats to distance themselves from the corruption scandal has been reinforced by the strength of the federalist Lombard League. At its annual meeting in Pontida, near Bergamo, Mr Umberto Bossi, the League's leader, yesterday threatened to declare a tax strike if President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro did not call a general election after parliamentary approval of the 1994 budget later this year.

Mr Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, prime minister, met senior cabinet colleagues yesterday to discuss the government's budget plans for 1994-95.

Next year's budget is expected to contain measures, mainly spending cuts, to reduce the estimated £180,000m (\$1170m) budget deficit by between £15,000m and £40,000m next year.

## THE LEX COLUMN

### Prudential regulation

Mr Mick Newmarch of the Prudential

has made no secret of his implacable opposition to the Personal Investment Authority, the proposed self-regulatory body for retail financial services. The freedom of investment firms to choose their regulator is enshrined in the Financial Services Act so the threat of a boycott is by no means idle. Without the willing participation of the country's biggest life insurer, the PIA would lack credibility. Since Mr Andrew Large of the Securities and Investments Board has made the PIA's success a cornerstone of his crusade to make the two-tier regulatory work, the stakes are high.

Others in the industry have chosen a more pragmatic approach since the government is unwilling to introduce new legislation, the best chance of avoiding an embarrassing row is to make the best of the existing system by signing up with the PIA. But it remains uncertain whether the PIA will deliver an adequate standard of regulation. Even full transparency on sales commissions for life assurance might not weed out sharp practice. Mr Newmarch is surely correct to say that a regulator capable of banning inadequate savings products and over-enthusiastic sales methods may yet be required.

Delegates at the Alliance's national convention in Florence on Saturday were read a message from Mr Segni suggesting the movement should now move towards transforming itself into an official political party. His message came as tension increased within the Christian Democrat party, which has been discredited by the corruption scandal.

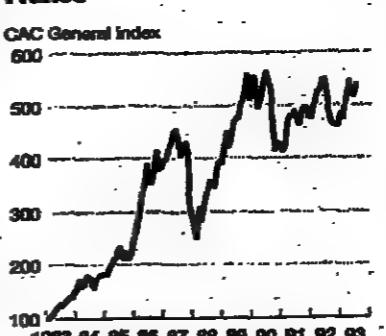
Ms Rosi Bindu, a regional party member who has spearheaded calls for reform proposed at the weekend to make the party's Veneto region the testbed for change. Addressing a conference in the spa town of Abano, Ms Bindu proposed changing the party's name and adopting a reformist programme.

Her demands come just a fortnight before a crucial Christian Democrat national convention, which may mark the party's last chance to agree on changes, possibly including a new name, before others follow Mr Segni's example. The party could break up if reform does not come quickly.

Pressure on the Christian Democrats to distance themselves from the corruption scandal has been reinforced by the strength of the federalist Lombard League. At its annual meeting in Pontida, near Bergamo, Mr Umberto Bossi, the League's leader, yesterday threatened to declare a tax strike if President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro did not call a general election after parliamentary approval of the 1994 budget later this year.

Mr Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, prime minister, met senior cabinet colleagues yesterday to discuss the government's budget plans for 1994-95.

Next year's budget is expected to contain measures, mainly spending cuts, to reduce the estimated £180,000m (\$1170m) budget deficit by between £15,000m and £40,000m next year.



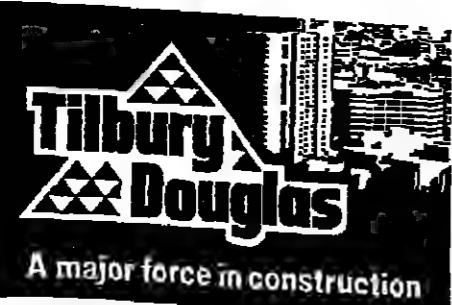
stocks. The government, though, may face a stiffer challenge in selling others, such as Air France and Bull, which require extensive restructuring. Moreover, recent opinion polls suggest the public is lukewarm about the programme. This is hardly surprising after the unhappy experiences surrounding the first wave of privatisation. Having been seduced into buying shares in 1986, investors watched the market crash the following year. Since then, most have reverted to high interest money market funds.

The government, though, has been devising schemes to rekindle enthusiasm for equities. Tax breaks, free shares and higher dividends for loyal shareholders are some of the latest wheezes. The FF100 Baladur bond, convertible into shares in privatised companies, provides a further ingenious enticement.

The critical determinant of privatisation's success, however, may be the scale of foreign involvement. Despite the irritations of French companies' shareholding structures, international investors seem tempted. This largely reflects the belief that the government cannot afford privatisation to fail. The hope is that the best assets will be sold first at attractive prices. The conservative government certainly needs tangible successes before the presidential elections in 1995. Hemmed in by the big budget deficit, the strong franc and a commitment to fiscal austerity, the government will rely heavily on privatisation proceeds to help stimulate the fast fading economy. The need to tackle unemployment is a political imperative. Ironically, unemployment may worsen as companies heading for privatisation slim down their workforces.

The precarious state of the economy will remain the greatest worry. San

guine investors may believe recession will enable them to invest at the bottom of the cycle. The majority, though, will surely be deterred by the dismal outlook for corporate earnings. Given the pressures, the French government must be sorely tempted to sell its soul and permit the franc's devaluation. Such a Faustian compact would be the balm for almost all its short-term ills. Falling interest rates, a surging stock market and resurgent industrial competitiveness would provide the perfect backdrop for the flotation of



A major force in construction

# FINANCIAL TIMES COMPANIES & MARKETS

© THE FINANCIAL TIMES LIMITED 1993

Monday July 12 1993

## INSIDE

### Crav directors set for final bonus

The final tranche of a share-option based incentive bonus package, worth between £25m (\$37.5m) and £35m, for the former chairman and three senior directors of Crav Electronics is likely to be triggered tomorrow when the group announces its 1992-93 results. Page 18

### US institutions hold 10% of ITV

American institutions hold a stake of around 10 per cent in ITV companies, according to a new survey of who owns what in the UK's commercial television sector. Page 16

**Alcoa drops 21% in quarter two**  
Aluminum Company of America has reported a 21 per cent drop in second quarter net income before special charges. A huge surge of imports to the West from the former Soviet Union means a back-drop of high world aluminum stocks and low prices. Page 17

**Bronfman empire shrinks further**  
The troubled business empire controlled by Toronto's Bronfman family is making further disposals, selling its controlling interest in Consumers Packaging, Canada's biggest glass container maker, as well as a 50 per cent stake in a British Columbia paper mill. Page 17

**Leading role for derivatives**  
Derivatives have become integral to corporate risk management, with a surprising array of business applications, from swapping long-term debt for short-term debt to hedging foreign exchange or commodities exposure. Page 19

### Merrill Lynchpin

Mr Daniel Tully, who a week ago took over the helm of Merrill Lynch, the largest securities house in the US, does not fit the popular image of Wall Street's elite. But during his tenure Merrill has grown from one of several dominant firms on Wall Street, to the dominant force. Back Page

### Prospective p/e ratio

The latest prospective p/e ratio for the FTSE Index of 500 industrial stocks for calendar 1993 is 14.5 according to IBES, the consensus estimates service (last week: 14.6). This compares with an IBES estimated p/e for the "500" of 19.2 (19.4) for calendar 1992. The official FT calculation of the historic p/e, based on the latest reported earnings, is 18.10 (19.19).

Market Statistics			
Baa lending rates	23	London share service	23-25
FT-A World Indices	23	Bank Profitability	21-25
FTASMA Int'l bond rate	18	Managed fund service	23
Foreign exchanges	23	New int'l bond issues	18
London record issues	23	World stock mkt indices	20

Companies in this issue			
Alcatel	17	Hidronor	17
Alcoa	17	Merck	15
SZ Bertini	17	Olympic & York	15
Bank of Bermuda	17	Pelican	16
Baner Homes	16	Saudi American Bank	17
Berliner Bank	17	Siemens	15
Clevedon Group	16	Smith New Court	16
Crav Electronics	16	Swissair	17
Europa Minerals	16	Western Resources	17
Gloves Group	16	Woolworths	17

## A test of faith in the UK's recovery creed

In the last few weeks a malaise has settled over the UK financial markets. Anxiety is growing that even the cautious faith in a sustainable recovery expressed by Mr Kenneth Clarke, the new Chancellor, may be too optimistic.

The fear among a number of economists and investors is that the promising indicators of the first quarter reflected a one-off boost from sterling's devaluation and lower interest rates rather than a sustained improvement in the economy.

Even if the UK does not drift back into recession, expectations are mounting that once the optimism of the spring dies down, there will be little recovery left to speak of.

The unease has been picked up in the UK money markets. The December sterling futures contract is pricing in another base rate cut by the end of the year, and it is harder to find City economists supporting the view that interest rates have hit bottom at 6 per cent than it was a few months ago.

Last week, SG Warburg Securities, which for some time has been relatively bullish about growth, joined the crowd in forecasting that the Chancellor was likely to cut rates to 5 per cent by the end of the year.

Mr Peter Warburton, chief economist at Robert Fleming, sums up the general concern: "The buoyancy of consumer purchases of cars, household goods and leisure items in the first quarter bears the hallmarks of a temporary spending binge rather than the beginning of a sustained trend."

What, then, lay behind the strong growth of the first three months of the year if it did not reflect a solid, underlying improvement? Mr Bill Martin, economist at UBS, says there was a one-off surge in consumption provoked by keen high street pricing and better terms on hire purchase agreements after the interest rate

cut. Stock-building may also have provided a short-term boost to output and there was an upsurge in confidence after the rate cut.

But these factors will not be enough to sustain the sparkle of the first quarter through the rest of the year, say the gloomy economists.

In a recent report, Professor Wynne Godley, one of the Treasury's outside advisers known as the seven wise men, says: "With a severe recession developing in Europe and with inadequate capacity in trade

able goods and services, the growth of net export demand over the next few years will not, on present policies, be any faster in the future than in the past." The upshot, he says, is that "it will not be possible to achieve sustainable growth fast enough to reduce unemployment by any significant amount over the next four or five years."

The worries of Prof Godley and economists such as Mr Martin focus on:

• The overhang of debt. Professor Godley believes that with household debt still around 100 per cent of the annual flow of disposable income, personal saving is likely to stay very high.

Survey evidence backs up the fear that consumer spending remains constrained by deteriorating personal finances. Last week, the con-

sultancy Business Strategies Limited reported a rise in the proportion of people falling into debt, particularly in the south-east.

On the corporate side, the big overhang of excess capacity in many sectors, together with weakened balance sheets, is checking investment.

• Tax increases next year and a squeeze on real disposable income. Even the more bullish economists fear that next April's tax increases will sharply reduce consumer spending.

He says bright economic prospects can be explained by the large amount of excess capacity as a result of reduced output during the recession. This, he argues, will allow for strong non-inflationary growth.

Other City economists take a similarly bullish view. "A lot of the negative factors can be offset by the lower exchange rate and lower interest rates and there is a feeling that we are near the trough in Europe anyway," says Mr Paul Turnbull at Smith New Court.

The economy is now poised between sliding back into unspectacular growth or continuing with the gains already made this year.

If the economic figures expected over the next two weeks are bad, the chancellor may be tempted to cut interest rates again. But he will need to keep an eye on the level of the pound. Since its recent rise partly reflects optimism about the UK recovery, a run of weaker figures may push the currency back down. In this case, Mr Clarke will have to decide whether to cut interest rates while the pound is weak, or whether to cling to base rates of 6 per cent in the hope that conditions for a strong upturn really are already in place.

Meanwhile, consumers face a squeeze on real incomes as the rise in average earnings continues to slow.

• European recession. Sluggish growth in Europe has been singled out by the Organisation for Co-operation and Development as a significant drag on growth in the UK.

Even the competitive gains of devaluation may not be enough to sustain exports as the UK's main markets slide into recession.

Mr David Smith, economist at Williams de Bröe, expects growth to be buoyant this year, but warns: "I am much more concerned that next year will be very disappointing because of the tax increase." He adds that the prospect of further tax rises will dwell at the back of people's minds so long as the budget deficit remains as high as it is.

Mr David Smith, economist at Williams de Bröe, expects growth to be buoyant this year, but warns: "I am much more concerned that next year will be very disappointing because of the tax increase."

He adds that the prospect of further tax rises will dwell at the back of people's minds so long as the budget deficit

remains as high as it is.

Meanwhile, consumers face a squeeze on real incomes as the rise in average earnings continues to slow.

• The overhang of debt. Professor Godley believes that with household debt still around 100 per cent of the annual flow of disposable income, personal saving is likely to stay very high.

Survey evidence backs up the fear that consumer spending remains constrained by deteriorating personal finances. Last week, the con-

cerns of Prof Godley and economists such as Mr Martin focus on:

• Credit controls. Professor Godley points out that in previous recoveries there has been some sort of relaxation of credit regulations which has given an underlying boost to demand. This recovery will not benefit from such a move and caution among banks will act as a further hindrance to recovery.

• The roots of SNI's difficulties lie in its dependence on hardware sales and the changed relationship between costs and revenues.

The gross profit on a mainframe used to be as much as 90 per cent, simple to pay for expensive sales forces and elaborate customer support, and still yield a worthwhile profit. Today the gross return is 60 per cent and falling. The comparable figure for mini-computers may be less than 40 per cent and below 20 per cent for PCs. Meanwhile, customers are turning away from mainframes and minis in favour of networks of PCs, which are more flexible and cheaper.

The first indications of these problems were apparent when, for example, vehicle lamp specifications vary so greatly between Europe and the US.

For the moment, however, the main problem preoccupying Mr Heinrich von Pierer, the new Siemens chairman, is the lumbering performance of Siemens Nixdorf Informationssysteme (SNI), an ill-matched merger arranged by Deutsche Bank in 1990.

The industrial logic appeared plain enough. Steady, tradition-based Siemens had 20 per cent of the German market for mainframe machines and made modest profits on equipment supplied mostly by Fujitsu of Japan. Live-wire, entrepreneurial Nixdorf had flourished in the 1980s, winning

25 per cent of the home market for its mini-computers. It also came equipped with a strong software business.

Together, according to Deutsche Bank thinking, Germany had its own DM8bn-a-year internationally competitive computer industry combining the best of old and new, safe in the arms of one of the country's most stable industrial concerns.

Last week, almost three years after the merger, Mr von Pierer said he expected SNI's losses this year to match last year's deficit of DM512m (£202m). This will bring the cumulative loss since the company was formed to almost DM2bn. Unit personal computer sales had increased 50 per cent, he said, but price wars and currency losses had cost an estimated DM1bn.

The fledgling SNI, already trying to adapt to change in the industry and to recession, was being riven internally by a clash of cultures.

Morale suffered as the parent applied rough and ready remedies to staunch the profits drain. Already cut to around 47,000 from 52,000 at the time of the merger, the workforce is scheduled to drop to less than 40,000 by the end of 1995.

Only latterly has internal structural change come to the fore. Last October, for example, the PC business was split, according to the current fashion, into three business units. PCs, high performance printers and systems integration are now separate profit centres. In April the process of subdivision was extended throughout the concern with the creation of four units responsible for products, and six more in charge of internal and external services - from procurement to maintenance.

"When I look at what has been achieved in the last few months alone, I am convinced we'll bring

about a turnaround," said a confident Mr von Pierer.

Changes at the SNI embody his view of the main sources of future strength for the group. His predecessor, Mr Karl-Heinz Kasko, who enlarged Siemens by acquisition, finally broke the monolith into 17 operating divisions encompassing 300 activities. Within this frame, Mr von Pierer aims to create a network of individual profit centres, fostering the entrepreneurial spirit as he goes.

He expects SNI to be profitable within three years, when it will be ready for its next important development: a partner. His computer business may be relatively strong in Germany, but it has less than 2 per cent of the DM14bn-a-year European PC market, only marginally more of the

\$40s to close unchanged at \$34.50 last Friday. The resignation announcement came after the market's close and Merck shares may drop in reaction to the news this morning.

Analysts have been cutting their earnings forecasts for the company in recent weeks amid concern that it will be unable to sustain its strong growth record.

The concerns are due partly to

pressures from the Clinton administration for the drug industry to cut prices and party to doubts about the market

potential of one of its new products, Proscar, a treatment for enlarged prostates.

Merck, best known for anti-hypertensive and cardiovascular drugs, reported net profits of \$1.95bn, (£1.32bn) or \$2.12 a share for 1992, on sales of \$9.7bn.

Fourth quarter earnings rose 17 per cent on sales up 12 per cent.

Mr Markham is the second top executive of a major US drugs company to quit in the past few weeks. In late June, Mr Vaughn Bryson resigned as head of Eli Lilly after boardroom disputes.

## Investors bullish on UK share outlook

By Christopher Price

A LARGE majority of institutional investors are more positive on UK equities over the next 12 months than on any other market, according to a survey published today.

The monthly Smith New Court/Gallup poll of fund managers found 84 per cent bullish over the outlook for UK equities compared with 67 per cent for Japan, 56 per cent for Europe and only 9 per cent for the US.

The findings reinforce other recent reports and come on top of a gathering momentum for a reduction in domestic interest rates. The London stock market firmed on Friday as rumours of an imminent cut were boosted by four of the City's leading brokers reducing their year-end forecasts. BZW, James Capel and SC Warburg moved from 6 to 5 per cent, with SG Strauss Turnbull also trimming its rig.

The Warburg strategy team suggested that with gilt yields declining and inflation indicators encouraging "it is hard to be bearish from current levels" over the outlook for equities.

However, market strategists did strike one note of caution last week as suspicions grew that some of the big institutions were beginning to shift funds out of London and into Germany in anticipation of a cut in German rates as part of a support package for the D-mark.

The latest Gallup survey found that a balance of 12 per cent of fund managers were planning to increase their exposure to UK equities over the period, compared with 23 per cent for Japan and 13 per cent for European equities.

However, a balance of 30 per cent of fund managers were planning to cut their exposure to the US market. Among the preferred sectors in the US market were general engineering, banks and health and household. Property also fared well, with a balance of 23 per cent of fund managers planning to increase their investment. The least favoured areas were in contracting and construction, oil and gas and food manufacturing.

However, many fund managers remain nervous about the pace of recovery in the UK economy. Only 17 per cent of respondents believed the general economic situation would improve over the next 12 months, down from 24 per cent in June and 35 per cent in May.



## Debt talks set to resume at O&Y USA

By Bernard Simon  
in Toronto

NOT everyone is as gloomy about medium-term prospects. Mr Tim Congdon, another of the seven wise men, says in the Treasury report: "It is already clear that the main macroeconomic figures for this year will be the best since the late 1980s."

He says bright economic prospects can be explained by the large amount of excess capacity as a result of reduced output during the recession. This, he argues, will allow for strong non-inflationary growth.

Negotiations to restructure O&Y USA's US\$5.3bn debt have been at a standstill since March following disagreements between the company and its Canadian parent, Olympia & York Developments (OYDL).

The Reichmann family, which retained a 20 per cent interest in O&Y USA in the restructuring of OYDL earlier this year, also raised concerns about the possible dilution of their stake. Some minor points of disagreement remain between the Reichmanns and O&Y USA. But these are expected to be cleared up early this week.

The debt-restructuring talks are expected to drag on for at least six months. But the corporate-governance pact has raised hopes the talks will succeed without O&Y USA following its parent into bankruptcy protection.

## COMPANIES AND FINANCE

# Final Cray bonus tranche likely

By Paul Taylor

**THE FINAL** tranche of a share-option based incentive bonus package, worth in total between £25m and £35m, for the former chairman and three senior directors of Cray Electronics, is likely to be triggered tomorrow when the group announces its 1992-93 results.

The complex three-part bonus package was approved by Cray shareholders in December 1988 when a new management team led by Sir Peter Michael, the former

chairman of UEL, was installed after the company was widely criticised for its accounting policies and forced to revise its profits downwards.

The four beneficiaries of the scheme are Sir Peter, who stepped down as chairman at the start of last month; his successor, Mr Roger Holland; Mr Jeff Harrison, finance director, and Mr Jon Richards, group managing director.

Under the terms of the scheme, devised by SG Warburg, Cray's financial adviser, the four executives were enti-

tled to subscribe for cut-price deferred convertible shares and deferred redeemable shares, depending on the group's share price and its financial performance measured by earnings per share.

The share price has risen sharply over 12 months, closing at 151p on Friday, and results, boosted by disposals and timely acquisitions, have bounced back from a £2.85m pre-tax loss in 1989-90 to pre-tax profit of £3.5m in 1991-92. As a result of the pre-conditions triggering the first two

tranches of the incentive scheme have already been met. The size and value of the third tranche of share options depends upon the level of earnings in the year to April 30, and the share price at the time of conversion.

The potential value of the share option incentive scheme raised some eyebrows at the time - one analyst said he was staggered by its size. However it was defended by Sir Peter who said the incentive was "fairly a very difficult job" given the risks.

## Europa poised to move back into the black

By Kenneth Gooding,  
Mining Correspondent

**EUROPA MINERALS**, the UK mining finance house which has been refinanced and restructured, broke even in the opening quarter.

And it will return to pre-tax profit for the first time since 1989 in the full year to July 30, said Sir David Hardy, chairman, at the annual meeting.

He would not forecast the full-year result and said Europa, which had gold and coal mining interests in Australia as well as drawing royalties from North Sea and Indonesian oil, had a long way to go before paying dividends.

Sir David confirmed that consideration was being given to a three-sided restructuring to pull together Europa and Austin, the small Australian mining company which is Europa's main shareholder with 18.8 per cent, and Burmine, the Australian gold producer of

which Europa holds 41.8 per cent.

This would result in a group with a market capital of about A\$40m, quoted and with interests primarily in Australia but also with a London listing. This would "make it more simple for shareholders to see what they own."

But Sir David stressed that any restructuring would be very complex to work out, and was "an idea being explored no more than that."

An 8 per cent stake in Europa, left with Australian sub-underwriters after a poorly-received rights issue of shares a year ago, was acquired recently by Mt Edon, another small Australian gold group backed by Swiss money.

Henry Ansbacher, the merchant bank which underwrote the issue, was left with 12.8 per cent of Europa. Mr Edward Schneider of Ansbacher said it was being treated as a long-term investment.

HAVING BREACHED covenants on convertible loan stock and borrowing restrictions, Gieves Group is raising £1.4m net in a placing and open offer to remedy the situation.

The group, now operating as retailers and licensors and publishers, is placing 8.2m shares with USI Holdings group, which speaks for 5.1 per cent of the capital and all of the loan stock, and with Thistle Nominees on behalf of Mr George Ljutic, a private investor holding 9.9 per cent of the capital.

Shareholders can claw back on the basis of 3-for-5 at 25p per share. USI will not request the immediate repayment of the loan stock in return for certain adjustments to the terms.

At the end of the year to January 31 1993 the loss retained in the business had risen from £2.8m to £4.75m. For the 12 months pre-tax deficit came to £1.41m (£1.51m), including exceptional charges

of £1.34m (£1.71m).

The exceptions were made up of £210,000 for the closure of the Gieves & Hawkes operation in Milan and two retail outlets in the UK, £471,000 for restructuring and reorganisation costs for Chivers' publishing divisions in the UK and US, and £63,000 for net property liabilities.

On top of that were extraordinary charges of £2.47m (£2.28m). These comprised £1.76m adjustment for goodwill previously written off against reserves, £98,000 provisions and asset write-offs principally for the Milan stores, £15,000 profit on the sale of Bookpoint, and £1.5m in respect of the crystallisation of contingent liabilities relating to Redwood Press.

In respect of the latter, the principal guaranteed parties have conditionally agreed to subscribe for 900,000 shares at 25p in part settlement of the amounts owed.

At the end of the year to January 31 1993 the loss retained in the business had risen from £2.8m to £4.75m. For the 12 months pre-tax deficit came to £1.41m (£1.51m), including exceptional charges

of £1.34m (£1.71m).

At the same time the group raised £4m in a placing with clawback, for working capital and to clear gearing.

The Leaderhall Wine Bar and the Cafe Pelican made a reduced contribution because of the recession.

Interest payments fell to £345,000 (£405,000) reflecting the drop in UK interest rates. The dividend is increased to 1.1p (1p) out of earnings per share of 4p (3p).

chain, as a non-executive director. At the same time the group raised £4m in a placing with clawback, for working capital and to clear gearing.

The Leaderhall Wine Bar and the Cafe Pelican made a reduced contribution because of the recession.

Interest payments fell to £345,000 (£405,000) reflecting the drop in UK interest rates. The dividend is increased to 1.1p (1p) out of earnings per share of 4p (3p).

## New outlets help Pelican rise to £908,000

By Catherine Milton

**THE PELICAN** Group of restaurants doubled pre-tax profits from £453,000 to £808,000 in the year to mid-March, helped by the opening of eight new outlets.

Turnover rose to £8.06m (£6.32m), bolstered by the continued expansion of the Cafe Rouge chain, which now comprises a total of 14 open and two in development.

The group now operated 20 restaurants,

Mr Roger Myers, chairman, said: "The Rouge concept still has great scope for expansion throughout the UK and we are actively looking for new sites." Last year saw rapid growth, with turnover, profit and overall development all reaching record levels.

Since the year-end Pelican had purchased the Yankee Noodle group of restaurants which brought with them Mr Robert Earl, who is behind the Planet Hollywood

chain, as a non-executive director. At the same time the group raised £4m in a placing with clawback, for working capital and to clear gearing.

The Leaderhall Wine Bar and the Cafe Pelican made a reduced contribution because of the recession.

Interest payments fell to £345,000 (£405,000) reflecting the drop in UK interest rates. The dividend is increased to 1.1p (1p) out of earnings per share of 4p (3p).

The Leaderhall Wine Bar and the Cafe Pelican made a reduced contribution because of the recession.

Interest payments fell to £345,000 (£405,000) reflecting the drop in UK interest rates. The dividend is increased to 1.1p (1p) out of earnings per share of 4p (3p).

**WE ARE ON THE FLOOR IN CHICAGO, LONDON, FRANKFURT, SINGAPORE, TOKYO, SYDNEY... NO WONDER WE ARE THE NUMBER ONE CLEARER ON THE PARIS MATIF.**

With Fimat's worldwide network of five hundred professionals, you get direct access to seventeen of the world's most active futures and options exchanges. We are members of CBOT, CME, LIFFE, MATIF, DTB, TIFTE, TSE, OSE, SIMEX, SFE, IPE, FOX, MEFF Renta Fija and Renta Variable, OML, BELFOX and MIF.

When you are looking for global reach in futures and options trading, talk to Fimat - the people who can make it happen for you.

Fimat is a wholly-owned, self-managed subsidiary of Société Générale.

\* For electronic exchanges (Frankfurt, Tokyo) "floor" means having direct access to markets via their electronic systems.

**YOUR GLOBAL FUTURES BROKER**



FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT FIMAT INTERNATIONAL  
OFFICE : 32 RUE DE TREVISE - 75009 PARIS - FRANCE. TEL.: 033 (1) 44.79.20.20

RSG FINANCES

## 10% of ITV companies held by US institutions

By Raymond Snoddy

**US INSTITUTIONS** hold a stake of around 10 per cent in the ITV companies, according to a new survey of who owns what in the UK's commercial television sector.

The biggest individual investor is Chase with significant stakes in Central, London Weekend Television and Scottish Fidelity, is the second largest US holder in ITV, owning more than 3 per cent of the stand alone ITV companies.

The other two main US investors are Wearbury Pincus with an 8.31 per cent stake in LWT and Hanover Manufacturers which had 4.19 per cent also in LWT.

The extent of the US involvement is detailed in Citywatch, a new sharewatch service launched by Investor Communications & Research, part of London-based consultants GAH.

The Citywatch survey of institutional ownership in the ITV sector is the latest to be produced by GAH. The consultants have already researched areas such as the food, retailing and stores sectors.

The report shows that Mercury Asset Management is by far the largest individual investor in ITV accounting for a total of 8.69 per cent of the stand alone companies. It is strong in the companies which would be the main takeover targets if present rules are relaxed - Central, LWT, Scottish and Anglia. Prudential Portfolio Managers, the sector's second largest investor, is backing a similar range of companies.

Phillips & Drew Fund Management is also a significant player, but its largest investment is in HTV - a 2.04 per cent stake. The BBC pension fund is also an investor in ITV and holds a 3.83 per cent stake in Anglia Television.

Mr James Redhead, head of GAH, said he saw the research as "a key defence tool" for ITV companies trying to ward off unwelcome predators. "It is also going to be of great value to foreign predators," he said.



Cliveden to seek public listing

**THE CLIVEDEN** Group, which runs the Buckinghamshire country house as a hotel, (pictured above), is to seek a public listing after reversing into Ifico, a former insurance broker. The house and gardens were donated by the Astor family to the National Trust in 1942. Granted an 80-year lease by the NT, the Cliveden Group have spent some £12m refurbishing the house. The company achieved a 66.8 per cent occupancy rate and £207 a night average charge on the 31 bedrooms in the financial year to last October. It made an operating profit of £427,000 on turnover of £3.83m but reported a retained loss of £456,000. Ifico, which became a shell company after selling its insurance broking businesses in 1991, hopes to regain its listing once the transaction has been completed.

## Banner Homes to buy BES companies

**BANNER HOMES**, the US-listed property trading and development group, is acquiring two BES housebuilding companies, Housebuilding Portfolio One and Housebuilding Portfolio Two, which it launched in 1990. Banner homes is 10.7 per cent of their share cap-

ital and has managed them from inception.

Banner has also announced pre-tax profits of £255,000 for the year to March 31, compared with losses of £888,000. Turnover was slightly lower at £6.83m (£6.83m).

Had the two companies been

part of the group as at March 31, they would have increased turnover by about 30 per cent.

Their combined sales for the year were £1.81m and pre-tax profits of £33,000. Net assets at March 31 amounted to £739,000.

Earnings per share came through at 2p (losses 3.9p).

CROSS BORDER M&A DEALS				
BIDDER/INVESTOR	TARGET	SECTOR	VALUE	COMMENT
ABN Amro (Netherlands)	Cragin Financial Corp (US)	Banking	£333m	Expanding Chicago presence
National Power (UK)	Transco Energy Ventures (US)	Power	£106m	Biggest overseas move yet
Sidewalk (UK)	Courtaulds Flexible Pako (UK/France/Spain/Netherlands)	Packaging	£79m	European strategy move
Cummins Engine (USA)	Joint venture	Engineering	£33m	Investment in India growing
Talgo (India)	SLO Tuottaja Kone (Finland)	Electrical wholesaling	£15.3m	Nokia refocusing move
National Express (UK)	Eurolines Nederland (Netherlands)	Transport	£1.43m	Cash deal
Nymex (US)	Ster Hellas Telecommunications (Greece)	Telecoms	n/a	Greece's State sells 20% stake
Saint Gobain (Italy)/Rhône-Poulenc (France)	Joint venture	Textiles	n/a	Sector restructuring continues
AMIC (S Africa)/Daewoo (Korea)	Daewoo-Amic (JV)	Consumer goods	n/a	SA market develop. venture
SOC Group (UK)	Höls (Germany)	Gas distribution	n/a	Strategic cash deal

## NOTICE OF FINAL REDEMPTION

of All Outstanding

## TOSCO INTERNATIONAL FINANCE N.V.

U.S.\$50,000,000 - 8% Convertible Subordinated Debentures Due 1995  
Redemption Date: August 13, 1993

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the terms of the 8% Convertible Subordinated Debentures (the "Indenture") dated as of October 15, 1980, between Tosco International Finance N.V. (the "Company") and Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, as Trustee (the "Trustee"), the Company has called for redemption and will redeem on August 13, 1993 (the "Redemption Date") all of its 8% Convertible Subordinated Debentures Due 1995 (the "Debentures") outstanding on the Redemption Date. As set forth in the Indenture, the redemption price will be U.S.\$1,000 per U.S.\$1,000 principal amount of Debentures to be redeemed plus U.S.\$66.22 representing accrued interest from October 15, 1992 to the Redemption Date, for a total redemption price (the "Redemption Price") of U.S.\$1,066.22. Payment will be made on or after the Redemption Date, after which the Debentures will cease to accrue interest.

To receive the Redemption Price for any Debenture, the holder thereof must present and surrender such Debenture, together with all unmatured coupons appertaining thereto maturing after the Redemption Date, to the Trustee or any of the Paying Agents at the addresses set forth below. The amount of any missing unmatured coupon will be deducted from the Redemption Price, or this deduction may be waived by the Company, the Guarantor and the Trustee if such security or indemnity is furnished to them as they may require. On or after the Redemption Date, payment will be made by check, drawn on, or by transfer to a United States dollar account maintained by the payee with a bank in the city of New York.

THE RIGHT TO CONVERT INTO COMMON STOCK OF TOSCO CORPORATION EXPIRES ON AUGUST 6, 1993.  
The Debentures are convertible at the Holders option at any time prior to the close of business on August 6, 1993 (the "Conversion Expiration Time") into shares of Common Stock, par value U.S.\$1.75 per share of Tosco Corporation (the "Common Stock"). Upon conversion, Holders will receive the number of shares that result from dividing the principal amount of Debentures held plus accrued interest through the date of conversion by the conversion price of U.S.\$186.875. Each U.S.\$1,000 principal amount of Debentures is, therefore, convertible into 5.3511705 shares of Common Stock plus additional shares (at the same price) representing accrued interest through the date of conversion. The number of such shares into which a Debenture may be converted shall be subject to adjustment in accordance with Article Eleven of the Indenture. In order to convert Debentures into shares of Common Stock, the Debentures must be presented and surrendered to the Trustee or conversion agents set forth below, accompanied by written notice of conversion substantially in the form set forth in Section 206 of the Indenture, executed by the Holder of such Debenture and with any transfer taxes payable pursuant to Section 1108. Such notice shall also state the name or names and addresses in which the certificate or certificates for the shares of Common Stock issuable or deliverable on such conversion shall be registered.

On June 11, 1993, the last reported sale price of shares of Common Stock on the New York

## Alcoa drops 21% as aluminium prices decline

By Martin Dickson  
in New York

**ALUMINUM** Company of America, the world's biggest aluminium producer, has reported a 21 per cent drop in second-quarter net income before special charges.

The figures come against a backdrop of high world aluminium stocks and low prices, due to a large increase of imports to the West from the former Soviet Union.

At the end of last month, Mr Paul O'Neill, chairman of Alcoa, announced that the company was cutting its annual primary production in the US by almost 25 per cent, and laying off 750 people.

The second-quarter figures, released on Friday, showed earnings of \$44.7m, or 51 cents a share, before \$9.4m of net unfavourable adjustments. Sales and operating revenues were little changed at \$2.4bn.

The adjustments included a special charge of \$2.8m after tax for job cuts; a charge of \$11.9m for a new three-year labour agreement; and a \$96.3m Australian tax credit.

In the second quarter of last year the company reported earnings of \$56.5m, or 85 cents a share, be-



Paul O'Neill announced 25% cut in primary production

fore charges of \$104.7m.

The company said prices on most products had declined from the same quarter of last year.

Revenues were level, in spite of a 5 per cent decline in aluminium shipments, because of increased sales in non-aluminium products.

For the first six months of the year Alcoa reported net income of \$72.3m, or 82 cents a share, before adjustments, compared to \$111.6m, or \$1.29 a share, on the same basis in 1992.

## Akai loss widens to Y941m at half-way

By Michiyo Nakamoto in Tokyo

**AKAI** Electric, the Japanese maker of video and audio equipment, suffered a pre-tax loss of Y941m (\$6.8m) in the half-year ended May 20, reflecting the continuing sluggish state of the consumer electronics market.

The loss, significantly larger than the Y628m deficit of the same period a year ago, came on sales of Y25bn, an increase of 2.2 per cent on the previous first half.

Sluggish sales of video cassette recorders, particularly in Europe where Akai has a strong foothold, the impact of the yen's rise and increased competition were blamed for the disappointing performance. Akai has an export ratio of 85 per cent and increased sales in all regions except Europe

where they fell by 13 per cent.

Video equipment suffered a 4 per cent decline in sales while audio equipment saw sales grow by 27 per cent.

Akai forecast pre-tax losses would increase sharply in the year to November 20 because of the depressed market conditions and the yen's rise against the dollar this year.

It expects losses of Y1.3bn, compared with the previous Y2.47bn. This will be the second straight year of losses for Akai, which had initially expected to post a pre-tax profit of Y300m in the current year.

The group hopes to combat the impact of the yen's rise with price rises, an increase in overseas production and in the procurement of parts from overseas. However, it believes sales of VCRs will continue to decline through the year.

## Argentina sells energy group in three units

By John Barham  
in Buenos Aires

**ARGENTINA** has completed the privatisation of its principal energy companies with the sale of Hidronor, the country's principal hydroelectricity generator for \$1.1bn.

The sale follows last month's successful flotation of YPF, the national oil company, and last year's privatisation of the federally-held gas and electricity companies. In just 15 months, Argentina's energy privatisations have raised more than \$6.65bn.

The government split Hidronor into three parts, selling each as a separate unit. Three international consortia paid \$474.5m in cash and took on a further \$831.1m in financial liabilities from the government. Hidronor's dams have been

transferred as 30-year concessions.

The sale last week of El Chocón, the largest of the dams, for \$519.2m to a consortium led by Endesa of Chile, was particularly significant. Argentina and Chile have long been fierce rivals.

El Chocón is located close to the Chilean border in the southern Andes and is a large source of electricity for Argentina. Last year, Endesa acquired generating and distribution companies in greater Buenos Aires.

A consortium headed by Southern Electric of the US paid \$393.5m for the Alcorta dam. Another consortium comprising Dominion Energy, also of the US, and Louis Dreyfus, the international commodity trader, paid \$194.9m for the smaller Cerros Colorado dam.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Southern Union gas acquisition

**WESTERN** Resources of the US is to sell its Missouri natural gas properties and operations to Southern Union for about \$360m, Reuter reports. Southern Union will fund the purchase through a debt offering and a rights issue of common stock.

The natural gas properties serve about 460,000 Missouri customers in areas including Kansas City, Joplin and St. Joseph.

The deal hinges on approvals from the Missouri Public Service Commission and other regulatory agencies, Western Resources said.

**BANK** of Bermuda Group has agreed to acquire the institutional trust business of Standard Chartered Bank's Equitor Group in Hong Kong and Singapore, increasing its Asia Pacific assets to about US\$7bn, Reuter reports.

Standard Chartered Equitor has about US\$8bn of institutional assets, and Bank of Bermuda has US\$4bn in assets in the area, the bank said.

The acquisition raises total funds under administration to

more than US\$28bn from US\$25bn, the bank said.

An initial public offering of shares in Woolworths the Australian retailer has closed heavily oversubscribed, Reuter reports. Woolworths offered 1bn shares at A\$2.45 each. Investors applied for 2.67bn shares, more than 2½ times the number available.

Domestic institutions applied for 875m shares, but were allocated 153m. Overseas institutions requested 772m shares. They got 40m.

Woolworths, which is not related to the US group Woolworth group, has allocated shares to 339,000 investors. That gives the biggest shareholder base of any listed Australian company.

**Saudi American** Bank, which is 30 per cent owned by Citibank of the US, improved first-half net profits by 6.5 per cent to SR470.6m (\$127.2m), compared with the year-earlier period, AP-DJ reports.

Operating income was little changed at SR465.5m. However, the bank recorded a SR5.1m surplus in debt recovery compared with a SR17m provision against bad debts a year earlier.

## Swissair wins strong terms on aircraft sale

By Ian Rodger in Zurich

**SWISSAIR** has sold six of its MD-81 aircraft on very favourable terms, Mr Otto Loepfe, the Swiss national airline's chief executive, said yesterday.

No figures were given. Swissair is frequently in the used aircraft market and aims to keep a modern fleet. In the past two years, proceeds from sales have prevented the airline from making losses.

Mr Loepfe, speaking to the airline's annual managers' meeting in Zurich, said the Alcazar project, under which Swissair would join forces with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Scandinavian Airlines System and Austrian Airlines, was the best way forward for the company. It said a memorandum of agreement was expected to be signed by the airlines in September.

If the deal goes ahead, the four carriers would shed 10 per cent of their workforces, Mr Loepfe said. This would require Swissair to make some of its 25,800 staff redundant, but the workforce was falling by 5.8 per cent annually through natural attrition.

## COMPANIES AND FINANCE

## Bronfman empire makes further disposals

By Bernard Simon in Toronto

**THE** troubled business empire controlled by Toronto's Bronfman family is making further disposals, selling its controlling interest in Consumers Packaging, Canada's biggest glass container maker, as well as a 50 per cent stake in a British Columbia paper mill.

Consolidated Enfield, a Bronfman-controlled company, will receive C\$8.7m (US\$7.5m) for its 58 per cent stake in Consumers from the owners of

Glenshaw Glass, a privately-held US glass maker based in Pittsburgh. Glenshaw has agreed to invest an unspecified amount in Consumers and to keep all its seven plants in operation.

Separately, Noranda Forest, which is also controlled by the Bronfmans, has sold its 50 per cent stake in Island Paper Mills, which makes coated and uncoated papers, to EB Eddy, a Canadian forest products group.

Eddy has bought the remain-

ing 50 per cent from MacMillan Bloedel of Vancouver. Terms were not disclosed.

The purchase price for Con-

sumers is 65 cents a share

less than half the current mar-

ket price, and reflects the com-

pany's fragile financial condi-

tions.

Losses over the past five

years have totalled C\$223m,

and Consumers is in default on

a considerable portion of its

bond debt and debentures. It is

in the middle of a financial and

business restructuring, which

included the sale earlier this year of its plastics packaging interests.

Mr Brian Lawson, Enfield's president, said a fresh owner committed to injecting new capital and providing strategic support "greatly improves Consumers' prospects. The company has a market share of

roughly 70 per cent with 1992 sales of C\$410m.

Consumers and Island Paper are the latest in a string of asset disposals by companies in the Bronfman orbit. Others

sold this year include controlling interests in MacMillan Bloedel, the west coast forestry group; John Labatt, the beer and entertainment group; and Royal Trust, Canada's second-biggest trust and loan company.

The convoluted structure of the Bronfman group, which includes several private holding companies, makes it hard for outsiders to estimate the extent of its financial difficulties which led to the spate of asset sales.

up only 6 per cent while Garttardo's declined.

• Berliner Bank has acquired Deutsche Spar- und Kreditbank (DSK) from DSK's sole shareholder, Mr August von Flink, the Munich-based investor.

No terms were provided.

German press reports have recently estimated value on the deal at up to DM200m (\$125m). DSK operations are focused on private customer business.

The bank has 25 branches, most of them in the Munich area.

DSK had 1992 net profits of DM7.03m. Its balance sheet total was DM2.03bn.

## Swiss banks lifted by first-half improvements

By Ian Rodger

**FIRST-HALF** results from three medium-sized Swiss banks underpin expectations of a banner year in prospect for the industry.

BZ Bank, the Zurich securities house headed by Mr Martin Ebner, reports first-half net income of SFr49.9m (\$35.6m), not far from the SFr59.5m earned in the whole of last year.

It was the first time BZ, which is privately held, reported interim results and no comparative figures were given.

Last week, Banca del Gottardo, the Lugano-based bank controlled by Japan's Sumitomo

Bank, said cash flow rose 22 per cent to SFr61.4m in the first half.

While two weeks ago, Julius Baer, another Zurich banking group, said its first-half net profit was about SFr70m, slightly higher than the figure for the whole of last year.

Baer, which specialises in asset management, said its commission income from this business was up 30 per cent while BZ's securities related income was up 20 per cent.

Also, clients' assets grew by about 10 per cent in the first six months and total SFr36bn.

Analysts said funds had been

pouring into Switzerland this year, partly because of continuing turbulence in exchange rates in other European countries.

Baer said its trading income

more than doubled in the first half. Gottardo said stock trading and new issue commission income was up 30 per cent while BZ's securities related income, at SFr50.9m, was 28 per cent above the figure for the whole of last year.

Lower interest rates, a buoyant local stock market, big new inflows of investment funds and controlled costs are the factors contributing to these results.

The Swiss stock market's all-share index is up 22 per cent since the beginning of the year, enabling banks to make large gains in trading and commission income.

Baer said its trading income

of investment research at Credit Suisse's decision last December to stay out of the European Economic Area helped.

Baer's net interest income gained 10 per cent, reflecting widening spreads as interest rates fall.

The big three Swiss universal banks, Union Bank of Switzerland, Swiss Bank Corporation and Credit Suisse, are the main beneficiaries of this trend, and they are all expected to report sharply higher first-half profits.

Most banks are benefiting

from two years of aggressive internal cost cutting. Baer's expenses in the first half were



## FINANCIAL IZVESTIA TALKS BUSINESS TO 300,000 INFLUENTIAL RUSSIANS EVERY THURSDAY.

(So can you by calling 212-752 4500)

The Financial Times produces Financial Izvestia, a weekly 8-page business newspaper, in partnership with Izvestia, Russia's leading quality daily.

It is printed on the FT's distinctive pink paper and accompanies Izvestia each Thursday.

As well as covering what's happening in Russia, Financial Izvestia features key international business news and the commodities and currency listings.

It is essential reading for some 300,000 subscribers in the major business areas across the CIS, in particular in and around Moscow, Kazakhstan and the Baltic States.

To find out more about advertising to these influential people, contact Mary-Ellen Houck at the Financial Times on 212-752 4500. Fax 212-319 0704.

FINANCIAL TIMES  
LONDON • PARIS • FRANKFURT • NEW YORK • TOKYO

## INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS

## UK GILTS

## Prices climb despite lure of German bonds

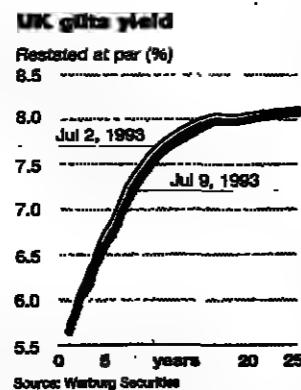
THE UK inflation optimists remain in the ascendancy. Gilt prices continued to climb last week in spite of the competing attractions of German government bonds which soared as investors re-appraised the outlook for the German economy and the D-Mark.

Ten-year gilts gained nearly a quarter of a point on the week, after a half point rise the week before.

Little happened to change the consensus view that inflationary pressures would be muted for some time.

That sentiment could be tested this week, which sees a spate of economic data including the latest numbers for unemployment and retail price inflation.

Even though senior officials at the Bank of England continue to sound warnings about the possibility of increased price pressures in the next few months, the balance of opinion in financial markets has shifted towards commentators such as



Source: Watton Securities

Professor Patrick Minford of Liverpool University who are claiming that inflation is dead.

According to Prof Minford, one of the Treasury's panel of seven outside economic advisers whose second report came out last week, recent changes in company behaviour and in the labour market have made the re-appearance of serious

inflationary problems in the near future extremely unlikely.

He says he is "frustrated and depressed" that much of the mainstream UK economics community tends more to the official Bank line on inflation. According to Prof Minford, the UK economy is "straining at the leash" and could be capable of strong non-inflationary growth this year if the government were to loosen economic policy.

This could be done, he says, by a cut of 2 percentage points in interest rates by the end of the year to 4 per cent.

He also would like the Treasury and Bank to combat the generally upward drift by sterilising.

Even though the gilt market are quite so sanguine about price pressures in the economy as the Liverpool professor, the broad direction of yield movements during the week lend his views some support.

The yield of the 8 per cent Treasury bond maturing in 2003 was quoted on Friday night at 7.51 per cent, 13 basis points down on the week and 50 basis points down over the past month.

It closed on Friday at a price of 103 1/4.

The 10-year area of the gilt curve performed particularly well last week, with some selling at the short end as investors reckoned they might have over-reacted the week before to the possibility of a cut in UK base rates in the near future.

In general quiet trading due to the absence of any significant UK economic data, gilts were largely unaffected by the strong move into German bonds during the week.

One gilts specialist said: "It reflects the strong support for gilts, particularly from non-UK institutions which see the bonds as cheap."

Other strong buyers of gilts in recent weeks have included

UK insurance companies, unit trusts and investment groups. Pension funds have been among the least enthusiastic buyers of the bonds.

Among the other members of the Treasury's economic panel, Mr Gavin Davies of Goldman Sachs is less optimistic than Prof Minford about inflation. He is keen in particular to draw attention to the effects of the tax increases planned for next April which will push up prices for some goods and services.

Mr Davies reckons the government's favoured measure of underlying inflation - the year-on-year change in the retail prices index excluding mortgage payments - will push up close to the 4 per cent Treasury ceiling by the end of 1994.

In the year to last month, this measure of underlying inflation is thought likely to move to 3 per cent, from 2.8 per cent in the year to May.

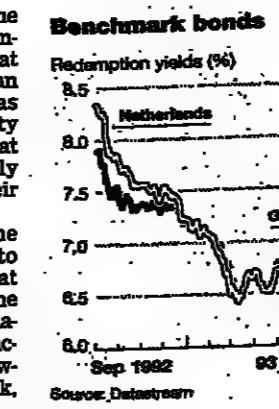
The exact figure will be announced by the Central Statistical Office on Wednesday. The headline inflation rate - the retail price index by itself - is thought likely to come in at 1.5 per cent, after 1.3 per cent in the previous month.

Attention will also focus on the change in unemployment last month, which is reckoned to have shown a generally flat trend after the surprise of four successive monthly drops in the jobless figure.

Peter Marsh

## DUTCH BONDS

## Guilder's stability paves the way for 10-year yields



Source: Datastream

economic confidence - falling much further below that in Germany.

The Netherlands needs the market credibility that the link with Germany provides and, with 30 per cent of its exports going to Germany, it is inextricably tied to its neighbour.

Mr Arno Barans, European economist with F. Van Lanschot Bankiers, the Dutch commercial bank, believes: "The spread will reach parity by the end of the year, not so much because of the good performance of the German economy but more because of the close link between the two and the arbitrage opportunities that provides."

The Dutch central bank has been paring its short-term rates in order to maintain currency parity and although its floor rate, the official advances rate, is at 6.5 per cent against the German discount rate of 6.75 per cent, the "special advances rate", which is used as a fine tuning mechanism, is only just below at 6.7 per cent.

As Ms Ellen van der Gulijs of the new Dutch merchant bank Mees Pierson says: "The markets realise that if you push the guilder up too much the central bank will punish them. Even if the whole ERM blew up and Germany had to get out of the Netherlands would still stay with it."

Peter John

## US MONEY AND CREDIT

## Fears over inflation in sharp retreat

THE US credit markets are optimistic they are to receive good news on inflation this week and that this will underpin the current record low yields at the long end of the bond market.

A raft of statistics to be released this week will give the markets much more to chew on than last week, when a lack of fresh economic data and holiday-shortened working week meant trading lacked a firm direction.

On Tuesday the market brushed off the biggest one-day gain in 13 years in the widely watched Commodity Research Bureau Index of commodity prices, which is often regarded as a harbinger of inflation.

For the rise was due mainly to flooding in the Mississippi River valley, sending grain and other agricultural commodity prices rising sharply, which economists agreed would have little inflationary consequence.

In this trading ahead of this week's inflation reports, the price on the benchmark 30-year

long bond managed to make a little progress, with the yield ending on Friday night at around 6.54 per cent, down from 6.65 per cent a week earlier.

Wall Street is expecting the overall producer price index for June, which will be released on Tuesday, to be flat slightly down, while the consumer price index due out on Wednesday, is forecast to be flat overall, with a 0.1 per cent to 0.2 per cent rise in its core rate.

That would mean producer price inflation running roughly at a 2.8 per cent annual rate since the start of the year, with consumer price inflation at around 3 per cent, far below the worrying levels recorded in the first four months of 1993.

Nor are there any significant inflationary clouds on the horizon.

Retail sales figures for June, due out on Wednesday, are expected to show a modest 0.3 per cent rise, with consumers still nervous about an economic recovery which seems

fragile and growing in fits and starts.

A summary of the May meeting of the Federal Reserve's policy-making Open Market Committee, released last Friday, confirmed reports that it voted on that occasion to lean towards raising interest rates if inflation did not slow down.

The committee met again last week and, while the outcome of its discussions will not be known for some six weeks, the recent inflation figures should have made it more sanguine, though probably not sufficiently so to eliminate its bias towards tightening.

With inflation fears in sharp retreat, international developments may help underpin the bond market's rally.

A particularly gloomy forecast came last week from Mr Philip Braverman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers, who argues that there are early signs of the US relapsing into recession later this year or in the first half of 1994, and that the Clinton package will accentuate the trend.

Martin Dickson

protectionism will trigger higher inflation".

Expectations that some compromise package will pass into law have underlined the market's rally since the start of June.

Many on Wall Street expect the measures will act as a substantial brake on the economy, and thus on inflation.

A particularly gloomy forecast came last week from Mr Philip Braverman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers, who argues that there are early signs of the US relapsing into recession later this year or in the first half of 1994, and that the Clinton package will accentuate the trend.

Martin Dickson

protectionism will trigger higher inflation".

Expectations that some compromise package will pass into law have underlined the market's rally since the start of June.

Many on Wall Street expect the measures will act as a substantial brake on the economy, and thus on inflation.

A particularly gloomy forecast came last week from Mr Philip Braverman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers, who argues that there are early signs of the US relapsing into recession later this year or in the first half of 1994, and that the Clinton package will accentuate the trend.

Martin Dickson

protectionism will trigger higher inflation".

Expectations that some compromise package will pass into law have underlined the market's rally since the start of June.

Many on Wall Street expect the measures will act as a substantial brake on the economy, and thus on inflation.

A particularly gloomy forecast came last week from Mr Philip Braverman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers, who argues that there are early signs of the US relapsing into recession later this year or in the first half of 1994, and that the Clinton package will accentuate the trend.

Martin Dickson

protectionism will trigger higher inflation".

Expectations that some compromise package will pass into law have underlined the market's rally since the start of June.

Many on Wall Street expect the measures will act as a substantial brake on the economy, and thus on inflation.

A particularly gloomy forecast came last week from Mr Philip Braverman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers, who argues that there are early signs of the US relapsing into recession later this year or in the first half of 1994, and that the Clinton package will accentuate the trend.

Martin Dickson

protectionism will trigger higher inflation".

Expectations that some compromise package will pass into law have underlined the market's rally since the start of June.

Many on Wall Street expect the measures will act as a substantial brake on the economy, and thus on inflation.

A particularly gloomy forecast came last week from Mr Philip Braverman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers, who argues that there are early signs of the US relapsing into recession later this year or in the first half of 1994, and that the Clinton package will accentuate the trend.

Martin Dickson

protectionism will trigger higher inflation".

Expectations that some compromise package will pass into law have underlined the market's rally since the start of June.

Many on Wall Street expect the measures will act as a substantial brake on the economy, and thus on inflation.

A particularly gloomy forecast came last week from Mr Philip Braverman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers, who argues that there are early signs of the US relapsing into recession later this year or in the first half of 1994, and that the Clinton package will accentuate the trend.

Martin Dickson

protectionism will trigger higher inflation".

Expectations that some compromise package will pass into law have underlined the market's rally since the start of June.

Many on Wall Street expect the measures will act as a substantial brake on the economy, and thus on inflation.

A particularly gloomy forecast came last week from Mr Philip Braverman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers, who argues that there are early signs of the US relapsing into recession later this year or in the first half of 1994, and that the Clinton package will accentuate the trend.

Martin Dickson

protectionism will trigger higher inflation".

Expectations that some compromise package will pass into law have underlined the market's rally since the start of June.

Many on Wall Street expect the measures will act as a substantial brake on the economy, and thus on inflation.

A particularly gloomy forecast came last week from Mr Philip Braverman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers, who argues that there are early signs of the US relapsing into recession later this year or in the first half of 1994, and that the Clinton package will accentuate the trend.

Martin Dickson

protectionism will trigger higher inflation".

Expectations that some compromise package will pass into law have underlined the market's rally since the start of June.

Many on Wall Street expect the measures will act as a substantial brake on the economy, and thus on inflation.

A particularly gloomy forecast came last week from Mr Philip Braverman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers, who argues that there are early signs of the US relapsing into recession later this year or in the first half of 1994, and that the Clinton package will accentuate the trend.

Martin Dickson

protectionism will trigger higher inflation".

Expectations that some compromise package will pass into law have underlined the market's rally since the start of June.

Many on Wall Street expect the measures will act as a substantial brake on the economy, and thus on inflation.

A particularly gloomy forecast came last week from Mr Philip Braverman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers, who argues that there are early signs of the US relapsing into recession later this year or in the first half of 1994, and that the Clinton package will accentuate the trend.

Martin Dickson

protectionism will trigger higher inflation".

Expectations that some compromise package will pass into law have underlined the market's rally since the start of June.

Many on Wall Street expect the measures will act as a substantial brake on the economy, and thus on inflation.

A particularly gloomy forecast came last week from Mr Philip Braverman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers, who argues that there are early signs of the US relapsing into recession later this year or in the first half of 1994, and that the Clinton package will accentuate the trend.

Martin Dickson

protectionism will trigger higher inflation".

Expectations that some compromise package will pass into law have underlined the market's rally since the start of June.

Many on Wall Street expect the measures will act as a substantial brake on the economy, and thus on inflation.

A particularly gloomy forecast came last week from Mr Philip Braverman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers, who argues that there are early signs of the US relapsing into recession later this year or in the first half of 1994, and that the Clinton package will accentuate the trend.

Martin Dickson

yields

## INTERNATIONAL BONDS

**Swiss tranquillity disturbed by a quiet revolution**

AMONG European bond markets, few have escaped bouts of currency-related or politically inspired turbulence over the past year. However, unlike members of the European exchange rate mechanism, Switzerland's tranquillity has been disturbed by a quiet revolution taking place in the Swiss franc bond market.

In recent months, the changes which have taken place in this corner of Europe – regulations governing the market and the issuance of larger, more liquid issues – appear to be creating a more enticing market for borrowers of a sovereign and supranational nature. At the same time, a change in the economic background has made it more likely to encourage investors to buy bonds and for borrowers to launch longer-dated issues.

A recent report by Ms Caroline Shah, an analyst at Standard & Poor's, the international credit rating agency, points out that the volume of bond issuance in the Swiss franc bond market has dwindled in

recent years, as the market was "hampered by slow liberalisation" and left behind all other countries liberalised their currency markets.

According to figures provided by Euromoney Bondware, the volume of public and private Swiss franc bonds for foreign issuers declined from a total of SF23.8bn in 1990, to SF7.29bn in 1991 and SF7.8bn in 1992. Yet in the first six months of 1993, the volume of new issues topped SF18.5bn, suggesting the market could be set to exceed the previous year's volume. But as Ms Shah says, "recent moves have begun to reverse that trend and... may pave the way for the development of a Swiss franc Euro-market". She points out that the Swiss franc market may have benefited from the sporadic bursts of turbulence in the European exchange rate mechanism.

The following four changes should help to lift the growth of the Swiss franc market:

- the abolition of stamp duty on the issue of Swiss franc

bonds by non-Swiss issuers

- the abolition of stamp duty on inter-professional trading of foreign bonds, which had aggravated the illiquidity in the Swiss franc market

• the relaxing of syndication requirements, so that banks which are not domiciled in Switzerland are able to syndicate Swiss franc bonds issued by foreign borrowers

- new issue commissions and associated fees for borrowers have been reduced and are more evenly distributed.

According to S&P, the relaxation of the stamp duty on foreign issues should tempt more Swiss franc bond issues from foreign borrowers while the new syndication rules should help broaden the investor base outside Switzerland.

Yet, the pace of change could be slow. A bond analyst at Pictet, the Swiss investment house, says: "The liberalisations are bearing fruit... but it remains a small capital market with very few benchmark issues."

Some borrowers are taking note

of the changing environment. Last month the Republic of Austria established the benchmark bond in the Swiss franc market with the launch of its SF1bn bond due February 2000. The Kingdom of Sweden also tapped the market last month with a SF150m 10-year issue, its first foray in this market since 1988.

Austria's issue is particularly significant given that one of the most frequent complaints about the Swiss franc market is its poor liquidity. The market is dominated by Swiss retail investors who, once they have bought the bonds, tend to hold them to maturity. Small issues of about SF100-SF150m are placed and the liquidity dries up, forcing banks to quote wide bid-offer spreads thereafter.

For borrowers, Swiss interest rates appear relatively low. European standards, and some borrowers have been able to take advantage of attractive swap rates.

Another positive factor according to one Swiss banker, is the likelihood that there will be some early redemptions of bonds with relatively high coupons this year, which should create investor demand for Swiss franc bonds.

For borrowers, Swiss interest rates appear relatively low. European standards, and some borrowers have been able to take advantage of attractive swap rates.

years, so while investors could obtain high returns on bank deposit accounts, there was less incentive to buy lower-yielding bonds. However, with the fall in short-term rates, the curve has flattened out, and that appears to be triggering investor interest in the longer end of the market.

THE debate in world banking circles over controlling systematic risk from derivative securities trading will intensify when a study group formed by the Group of 30, a Washington-based think tank, releases its report on derivatives this month.

Such studies are popular. Derivatives, in the span of just a few years, have become integral to corporate risk management, with a surprising array of business applications, from swapping long-term debt for short-term debt to hedging foreign exchange or commodities exposure. Regulators are just coming to terms with swaps, swaptions, and hybrid instruments, and are wondering if, and how, such banking exotics should be supervised.

The banks which trade the markets are far from alone in managing derivatives. The industry has evolved to a point where standardised contracts and other procedures are helping to mitigate credit risks. Now, with the threat of regulatory intervention pending, the derivatives industry is scrambling to adopt an infrastructure of sorts, in order to prove that participating dealers have the growing markets under control.

Estimates of annual over-the-counter derivatives turnover range from \$5,000bn to \$7,000bn in terms of notional face value. However, since only the income streams from these securities are swapped, the capital at risk in each trade is smaller than the face value of the securities by at least a factor of 10.

Ideas for managing credit exposure while at the same time allowing reasonable market access and a healthy measure of innovation range from a centralised derivatives clearing house to a more sophisticated generation of standardised bilateral swap contracts.

Since credit quality is an important marketing tool for exchange clearing houses, big banks, and the newly-formed AAA credit-enhanced subsidiaries of big investment houses, the debate is coloured by the self-interest.

The handful of specialist dealers trading swaps would prefer to avoid the expense and standardisation required by a clearing house and negotiate instead a series of bilateral agreements that reduce exposure in the event a partner in a swap defaults. Bilateral agreements allow them to preserve the marketing edge they garner from their AAA credit ratings.

## RISK AND REWARD

**Derivatives industry scrambles to find some kind of infrastructure**

of a swap and limit default risk. With the credit quality of counterparties less of an issue, a central clearing house would, in theory, open up swap market participation to less highly capitalised banks.

Chicago's two big futures exchanges would like a slice of the swaps clearing business, and are positioning themselves for a potential bonanza. "It's something we're considering," says Mr Jim Sienz, senior director of risk management applications for the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

The Chicago Board of Trade is making a bid to clear swaps. Late last month, it asked its primary regulator, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, for exempt markets traded only by professionals from the constraints of federal oversight. Such an exemption, which has been granted to OTC swaps and off-exchange energy contracts, would allow the CBOE to compete against the OTC markets with its own non-standardised derivatives. However, it would also put the exchange in line to clear swaps and off-exchange energy contracts.

The CBOE is a long way from achieving such an exemption. CFTC officials have opposed mingling the derivatives risks of large institutional traders in the same clearing house that protects the investments of small retail futures and options traders.

Mr Andrew Coleman, partner in Price Waterhouse's capital markets area, believes a separate "mega clearing-house" for OTC derivatives could be constructed, but that it would be expensive to establish.

He sees drawbacks: the procedures used to clear, or match, highly standardised futures trades in liquid exchange markets do not transfer easily to swaps, which are individually tailored to suit the needs of a single company and are usually difficult to re-set.

The handful of specialist dealers trading swaps would prefer to avoid the expense and standardisation required by a clearing house and negotiate instead a series of bilateral agreements that reduce exposure in the event a partner in a swap defaults. Bilateral agreements allow them to preserve the marketing edge they garner from their AAA credit ratings.

Laurie Morse

NEW INTERNATIONAL BOND ISSUES										
Borrower	Amount mln	Maturity	Coupon %	Price	Yield %	Launch spread bp	Book runner	Borrower	Amount mln	Maturity
US DOLLARS								GULDERS		
Salvo Transportation Co.(*)	400	Jul.1997	1.975	100	-	-	Normus International	Feldberg(*)	100	Aug.1998
NGK Insulators(*)	300	Jul.1997	1.975	100	-	-	Niko Europe	IMMo	100	Aug.1998
Kingdom of Denmark	250	Aug.1997	1.75	99.595	4.985	+20 (+)	Niko Europe	Commerzbank Ottawa Finance	100	Aug.1998
Bacardi-Martini France	200	Jul.1998	5.75	99.565	5.654	+80 (SF14-98)	JP Morgan Securities	Paribas Capital Markets	100	Aug.1998
Sunthome Cement Co.(*)	200	Jul.1997	1.975	100	-	-	ING Bank	CLyon/J.Schae/Lehmann	100	Aug.1998
Steyring Oil Refining(*)	150	Dec.2000	3.75	100	-	-	ING Bank	CLyon/J.Schae/Lehmann	100	Aug.1998
Bankitalia	60	Jan.1998	9.25	99.635	8.420	+350 (+)	ING Bank	CLyon/J.Schae/Lehmann	100	Aug.1998
Credit Agricole(*)	100	Jul.1998	(*)	99.655	-	-	ING Bank	CLyon/J.Schae/Lehmann	100	Aug.1998
Japan Airlines Co.	250	Jul.2000	6.25	99.515	6.721	+125 (SF14-98)	CSFB	CLyon/J.Schae/Lehmann	100	Aug.1998
Republic of Argentina	150	Aug.1998	8.675	99.395	8.690	+255 (SF14-98)	Chase/ Lehman Brothers	Paribas Capital Markets	100	Aug.1998
Republic of Argentina	100	Aug.1998	8.675	99.395	8.690	+255 (SF14-98)	Chase/ Lehman Brothers	Paribas Capital Markets	100	Aug.1998
Mitsubishi Oil Co.(*)	200	Jul.1997	1.75	100	-	-	ING Bank	CLyon/J.Schae/Lehmann	100	Aug.1998
State Bk of New Str. Wales(*)	150	Feb.2000	6.25	99.18	6.280	+255 (SF14-98)	ING Bank	CLyon/J.Schae/Lehmann	100	Aug.1998
Grupa IRS	150	Jul.1998	11.75	99.497	9.500	+344 (SF14-98)	Goldman Sachs Int'l.	CLyon/J.Schae/Lehmann	100	Aug.1998
Credit Lyonnais(*)	250	Jul.1998	9.75	99.78	9.785	+255 (SF14-98)	Goldman Sachs Int'l.	CLyon/J.Schae/Lehmann	100	Aug.1998
Aracruz Celulose(*)	80	Jul.1998	9.9	100R	8.701	+450 (SF14-98)	CSFB	CLyon/J.Schae/Lehmann	100	Aug.1998
D-MARKS										
Arbed/S	100.5	Jul.2000	2.5	72.724	-	-	Merill Lynch Bank		4.529	-
Lynn, Ireland	100	Aug.2000	2.80	100	-	-	Merill Lynch Bank		4.529	-
Alana Finance, Netherlands	100	Aug.2000	7.125	101.5	8.848	-	Merill Lynch Bank		4.529	-
STERLING										
Leisure Group	125	Aug.2000	8.875	99.028	9.018	+127 (SF14-98)	Barclays De Zoete Wedd	Inter-American Development Bank	4.75	Aug.2000
National Bank of Hungary	100	Aug.2000	10	97.565	10.387	+255 (SF14-98)	JP Morgan Securities	Alfa Co.(SF14-98)	101.75	Aug.2000
Forbes	70	Jul.1998	(*)	(*)	-	-	JP Morgan Securities	Alfa Co.(SF14-98)	101.75	Aug.2000
FRENCH FRANCS										
French Electric Power Co.	2,500	Aug.2003	7	99.785	7.030	+22 (SF14-98)	Barclays De Zoete Wedd	Crédit Suisse	102	Aug.2003
Prudential Corp.	1,500	Aug.2002	7.25	99.505	7.360	+45 (SF14-98)	Barclays De Zoote Wedd	Crédit Suisse	102	Aug.2003
Bank of Savoie	100	Aug.1998	7.5	99.345	7.600	+45 (SF14-98)	BNP/Credit Lyonnais	Crédit Suisse	102	Aug.2003
Soc. Gén. Acceptation(*)	500	Aug.2001	5.65	99.55	6.281	+37 (SF14-98)	Société Générale	Crédit Suisse	102	Aug.2003
Soc. Nationale Et Aquitaine	100	Aug.2003	7.125	99.405	7.203	+38 (SF14-98)	CCF	Crédit Suisse	102	Aug.2003
YEN										
Mitsubishi Oil Co.(*)	300	Sep.2000	20	100	-	-	Yamaike Int'l(Europe)			
Hankyu Dept. Stores(*)	150	Sep.2000	94	100	-	-	Dewi Europe			
Takara Standard Co.(*)	100	Mar.1998	1,225	100	-	-	Nikko Europe			
CANADIAN DOLLARS										
Province of Ontario	1,250	Dec.2001	7.75	98.125R	8.02	+70 (SF14-98)	Kidder Peabody Int'l			
Kingdom of Denmark	200	Jul.1997	6.625	98.495	8.778	+10 (SF14-98)	Kidder Peabody Int'l			
SGAE	125	Aug.2003	6.125	98.004R	8.282	+32 (SF14-98)	Scotiabank			

**ANY TIME ANY PLACE ANY SHARE....**

Instant access to up-to-the-minute share prices from anywhere in the world.

Whether you're doing business in Berlin or hatching deals in Hong Kong, FT Cityline International can link you with all the UK stock market information you need:

- up-to-the-minute share prices
- daily unit trust prices
- regularly up-dated financial reports
- a confidential portfolio facility
</ul





## **FT MANAGED FUNDS SERVICE**

• FT Cityline Unit Trust Prices: dial (0891 or 0338) 430000, enter 4 and key in the five digit code listed below. Calls are charged at 36p/minute cheap rate and 48p/minute at all other times. International access available by subscription only. For more details call the FT Cityline Help Desk.

FT CITYLINE UNIT TRUST PRICES: dial (0891 or 0336) 432000, option 1 and key in the five-digit code: FT01100. Calls are charged at 36p/minute cheap rate and 48p/minute at all other times. International access available by subscription only. For more details call the FT Cityline Help Desk on (071) 875 4070.

## **FT MANAGED FUNDS SERVICE**

**• FT Cityline Unit Trust Prices:** dial (0891 or 0336) 4300000, enter 4 and key in the five digit code listed below. Calls are charged at 36p/minute cheap rate and 48p/minute at all other times. International access available by subscription only. For more details call the FT Cityline Help Desk on 0891 4300000.







## **NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE PRICES**

4 pm class July 9

GET YOUR  
AARHUS

## **NYSE COMPOSITE PRICES**

**NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET**

*4 pm close July 5*

**AMEX COMPOSITE PRICES**

+ μm Coax Only

Stock	P/	Si	Div.	E	1000	High	Low	Close	Gang	Stock	P/	Si	Div.	E	1000	High	Low	Close	Gang	Stock	P/	Si	Div.	E	1000	High	Low	Close	Gang												
Action Cgr	0	44	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	Champion	24	120	167	167	167	167	167	167	167	Hasbro	0.34	17	1104	353	353	353	353	353	353	353	NV Ryan	2	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	
Adv Magn	138	12	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	Chess	3	974	525	525	525	525	525	525	525	525	Health Cr	0	15	15	25	25	25	25	25	25	Odette A	33	24	10	94	94	94	94	94	94	
Alg Expr	0.20	11	174	194	194	194	194	194	194	Citi FdA	0.01	363	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Hedding	1	118	245	245	245	245	245	245	245	Oosten	0.24	31	1381	200	200	200	200	200	200		
Alten Inc	2	10	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	Comcast	0.30	13	10	117	117	117	117	117	117	Held Co	0.15	28	2100	525	525	525	525	525	525	525	Pegasus G	0.24	71	2003	255	255	255	255	255	255	255
Alpha Ind	7	14	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Computer	22	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	Hilco Cp	0.15	10	2457	525	525	525	525	525	525	525	Perini	0.20	2	85	67	67	67	67	67	67	67
Amter Pa	0.52	9	16	32	32	32	32	32	32	Concrt FdA	12	167	167	167	167	167	167	167	167	Hilhaven	107	1542	44	42	42	42	42	42	42	Petrol PD	1.88	11	13	204	204	204	204	204	204		
Amstel A	0.84	15	33	174	174	174	174	174	174	CrossRA A	1.28	126	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	Hymenaa	0.25	104	11	104	104	104	104	104	104	Hyundai	0.25	1	80	12	12	12	12	12	12		
Amstel-Ava	0.05	2	348	456	456	456	456	456	456	Crown C A	0.40	13	104	162	162	162	162	162	162	ICH Corp	0	3	587	510	510	510	510	510	510	ICH Corp	0.12	29	25	117	117	117	117	117	117		
Amstel-Ava	1	1503	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	Crown C B	0.40	11	118	132	132	132	132	132	132	Int. Come	0.12	3	4477	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	Int. Come	0.12	29	25	117	117	117	117	117	117	
Amstel-Ava	0.80	42	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	Cubic	1.33275	46	224	215	215	215	215	215	215	Intermark	0.12	19	117	50	50	50	50	50	50	Intermark	0.12	29	25	117	117	117	117	117	117		
Amstel-Ava	0.80	0	1286	175	175	175	175	175	175	Custommedia	12	123	234	234	234	234	234	234	234	Intellitac	0.12	3	580	525	525	525	525	525	525	525	Intellitac	0.10	1	80	12	12	12	12	12	12	
Amstel-Ava	0.80	15	44	254	254	254	254	254	254	DI Inds	15	83	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	Jan Bell	0	355	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	Jan Bell	0.12	29	25	117	117	117	117	117	117		
Amstel-Ava	0.80	15	44	254	254	254	254	254	254	Dixie	20	265	257	257	257	257	257	257	257	Kestrel Cp	0	2100	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	Kestrel Cp	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Amstel-Ava	0.80	15	44	254	254	254	254	254	254	Ducaison	8	29	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	Kirby Eng	0	385	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	Kirby Eng	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Amstel-Ava	0.80	2	263	175	175	175	175	175	175	Duplex	0.48	32	113	157	157	157	157	157	157	Lambra	10	97	95	95	95	95	95	95	Lambra	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7			
Amstel-Ava	0.80	12	320	134	134	134	134	134	134	DWG Corp	291	57	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	Laser Ind	20	265	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	Laser Ind	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Barb Ocean	0.55	1	63	34	34	34	34	34	34	Eastn Co	0.46	14	2100	12	12	12	12	12	12	Lee Ind	10	97	95	95	95	95	95	95	Lee Ind	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7			
Barber-Plr	0.86	39	16	205	205	205	205	205	205	Eastgroup	1.52	14	40	205	205	205	205	205	205	Leser Ind	20	265	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	Leser Ind	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bartlett A	0.04	45	5	7	7	7	7	7	7	East Sy	0.07	42	9230	124	124	124	124	124	124	Lee Pharm	32	265	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	Lee Pharm	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Battl Ind	0.30	11	1104	63	63	63	63	63	63	Ecol En A	0.28	14	21	16	16	16	16	16	16	Hotel Co	0	248	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	Hotel Co	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Beard Oil	0.04	40	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	Envir Serv	11	568	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	Lumex Ind	13	43	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	Lumex Ind	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bergan Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Epilope	15	151	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	Lynch Cp	13	12	234	234	234	234	234	234	234	Lynch Cp	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bergen Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Fab Inds	0.50	13	22	323	323	323	323	323	323	Master-Sc	20	43	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	Master-Sc	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bergen Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Fab Inc A	3.20	21	32	61	61	61	61	61	61	Marscom	7	7	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	Marscom	0.20	90	4	23	23	23	23	23	23		
Bergen Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Fab/CityCo	0.20	11	5	103	103	103	103	103	103	Media A	0.44	28	162	214	214	214	214	214	214	Media A	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bergen Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Fluke G	0.52	16	88	254	254	254	254	254	254	Moog A	0.7	110	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	Moog A	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bergen Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Forest Ls	24	780	342	342	342	342	342	342	342	MSP Expl	0	8	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	MSP Expl	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bergen Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Frequency	15	15	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	Net Post	3	44	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	Net Post	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bergen Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Frl/Losom	13	2500	333	333	333	333	333	333	333	New Line	21	16	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	New Line	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bergen Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Genet FdA	0.00	10	59	34	333	333	333	333	333	NY Times A	0.58	103	2803	48	48	48	48	48	48	NY Times A	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bergen Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Giant	0.70	17	22	258	258	258	258	258	258	Netcom OSG	0.20	88	10	61	61	61	61	61	61	Netcom OSG	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bergen Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Goldfield	18	213	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	Northstar	10	481	1078	93	93	93	93	93	93	Northstar	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bergen Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Greenfield	17	64	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	Atyrosk	10	481	1078	93	93	93	93	93	93	Atyrosk	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bergen Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Gulf Cts	0.34	2	198	34	34	34	34	34	34	Unifoods A	0	35	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	Unifoods A	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bergen Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Harbor	0.34	17	1104	353	353	353	353	353	353	Unifoods P	0	35	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	Unifoods P	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bergen Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Health Cr	0	15	15	25	25	25	25	25	25	Westfield	33	24	131	131	131	131	131	131	131	Westfield	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bergen Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Hedding	1	118	245	245	245	245	245	245	245	Westmorland	34	955	1175	1175	1175	1175	1175	1175	1175	Westmorland	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bergen Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Hilhaven	107	1542	44	42	42	42	42	42	42	Wiegman	0.88	11	13	204	204	204	204	204	204	Wiegman	0.04	13	90	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Bergen Br	0.40	11	304	185	185	185	185	185	185	Hymenaa	0.25	104	11	104	104	104	104	104	104	Wigle																					

**GET YOUR FT HAND DELIVERED IN COPENHAGEN,  
AARHUS, AALBORG, ESBJERG AND ODENSE.**

If you work in the business centres of Copenhagen, Aarhus, Aalborg, Esbjerg and Odense we'll deliver your daily copy of the FT to your office at no extra cost. Call Erna Pio for details on Copenhagen 3313 4441.



- C -																	
C Tac	500	718	25 <sup>2</sup>	24	25	-1 <sup>2</sup>	Siddigal	0.12	17 3888	22 <sup>1</sup> 22 <sup>1</sup> 22 <sup>1</sup>							
Cabot Med	26	342	72 <sup>2</sup>	74 <sup>2</sup>	72 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Gibson A	0.72	17	2024							
CalSchwep	1.54	18	27 <sup>2</sup>	25 <sup>2</sup>	26 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Gish Biom	10	90	5 <sup>2</sup> 65 <sup>2</sup>							
CadenceCom	12	30	94 <sup>2</sup>	68 <sup>2</sup>	85 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Good Guys	30	1885	104 <sup>2</sup> 93 <sup>2</sup>							
Care Cp	12	277	75 <sup>2</sup>	75 <sup>2</sup>	75 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	GratiaSys	18	144	24 <sup>1</sup> 17 <sup>1</sup> 23 <sup>1</sup>							
Calgen	2.25	11	802	145 <sup>2</sup>	132 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Gratia	0.40	48	65 <sup>2</sup> 174 <sup>2</sup> 165 <sup>2</sup>							
Cal Micro	30	801	184 <sup>2</sup>	171 <sup>2</sup>	175 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Great Art	0.02	0	173 <sup>2</sup>							
Cambridge	11	1279	54 <sup>2</sup>	55 <sup>2</sup>	55 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Green AP	0.03233	32 121 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>1</sup> 21 <sup>1</sup>							
CandelaL	1	701	51 <sup>2</sup>	62 <sup>2</sup>	23 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Green Ph	5	1784	51 <sup>2</sup> 51 <sup>2</sup> 51 <sup>2</sup>							
Canon Inc	0.54161	34	612	80 <sup>2</sup>	61 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Grovespan	36	944	34 <sup>2</sup> 27 <sup>2</sup>							
Canone	2	205	44 <sup>2</sup>	37 <sup>2</sup>	44 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Grid Wit	12	178	125 <sup>2</sup> 131 <sup>2</sup> 131 <sup>2</sup>							
Cardinal x	0.10	15	478	28 <sup>2</sup>	27 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	GTT Corp	26	78	30 <sup>2</sup> 29 <sup>2</sup> 29 <sup>2</sup>							
CarltonCm	0.57	22	40	23 <sup>2</sup>	23 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Garby Sng	63	410	54 <sup>2</sup> 54 <sup>2</sup> 54 <sup>2</sup>							
Cascade	0.80	17	29	21 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	- H -										
Casey S	0.15	15	100	184 <sup>2</sup>	175 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Harting A	21	11	9 <sup>2</sup> 9 <sup>2</sup> 9 <sup>2</sup>							
Colgate	12	748	134 <sup>2</sup>	124 <sup>2</sup>	124 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Hatleyvyn	0.55	14	130 <sup>2</sup> 23 <sup>1</sup> 24 <sup>1</sup> 25 <sup>1</sup>							
Colorful	4	307	145 <sup>2</sup>	125 <sup>2</sup>	145 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Harper Sp	0.20	77	80 <sup>2</sup> 15 <sup>2</sup> 14 <sup>2</sup>							
CEM Cp	19	14	83 <sup>2</sup>	81 <sup>2</sup>	83 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	HBO & Co	0.30	31	884 <sup>2</sup> 120 <sup>2</sup>							
Centitel	21	1517	84 <sup>2</sup>	85 <sup>2</sup>	85 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Healthcar	16	1257	141 <sup>2</sup> 124 <sup>2</sup> 137 <sup>2</sup>							
Centocor	1	852	83 <sup>2</sup>	75 <sup>2</sup>	85 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Healthcare	0.03	12	82 <sup>2</sup> 84 <sup>2</sup> 83 <sup>2</sup>							
Cdtd Rd	1.03	12	763	31	30 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Healthym	14	265	8 <sup>2</sup> 73 <sup>2</sup> 73 <sup>2</sup>							
Centr Spr	81	11	212	124 <sup>2</sup>	124 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Healthzhd	10	181	71 <sup>2</sup> 71 <sup>2</sup> 71 <sup>2</sup>							
Chandler	16	27	43 <sup>2</sup>	44 <sup>2</sup>	44 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Hedinger	0.16	13	120 <sup>2</sup> 92 <sup>2</sup> 91 <sup>2</sup>							
Chapter 1	0.54	8	690	31	30 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	HeekinCan	10	85	27 <sup>2</sup> 26 <sup>2</sup> 26 <sup>2</sup>							
Chemring	0.09	1522269	1258612 <sup>2</sup>	121 <sup>2</sup>		+1 <sup>2</sup>	HelenTroy	5	1365	151 <sup>2</sup> 814 <sup>2</sup> 143 <sup>2</sup>							
Checkit	22	204	103 <sup>2</sup>	105 <sup>2</sup>	105 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Hogan Sys	0.15	27	581 <sup>2</sup> 607 <sup>2</sup> 581 <sup>2</sup>							
Chemdesign	26	17	842	5	54 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Hologic	425	75	41 <sup>2</sup> 63 <sup>2</sup> 41 <sup>2</sup>							
Chesapeake	14	2	114	104 <sup>2</sup>	104 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Homesec	0.78	9	2	25	24 <sup>2</sup> 24 <sup>2</sup>					
Chemwork	21	142	14 <sup>2</sup>	1	14 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Hunt Jb	0.23	23	3100 <sup>2</sup> 22 <sup>1</sup> 21 <sup>1</sup> 22 <sup>1</sup>							
Chips&Te	13	4	35 <sup>2</sup>	35 <sup>2</sup>	31 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	HunterEnv	2	836	8 <sup>2</sup>	7 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>					
Chirk Cp	1	178	4 <sup>2</sup>	4 <sup>2</sup>	4 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Huntingt	0.20	14	1733 <sup>2</sup> 1273 <sup>2</sup>							
Chm Fin	1.12	17	257	593 <sup>2</sup>	593 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Hutco Co	0.05	3	33 <sup>2</sup> 51 <sup>2</sup> 51 <sup>2</sup>							
Chms Cp	0.14	26	710	292 <sup>2</sup>	282 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	HuskyBld	1	322	27 <sup>2</sup>	27 <sup>2</sup>	26 <sup>2</sup>					
Chruslge	19	2889	164 <sup>2</sup>	163 <sup>2</sup>	163 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Huxback	76	322	172 <sup>2</sup> 172 <sup>2</sup> 172 <sup>2</sup>							
Chs Tech	512	1798	51 <sup>2</sup>	51 <sup>2</sup>	51 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	HuzHeske	0.10	13	120 <sup>2</sup> 54 <sup>2</sup> 54 <sup>2</sup>							
CloudSyst	48	5205	55 <sup>2</sup>	53 <sup>2</sup>	54 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Hutz Jb	0.23	23	3100 <sup>2</sup> 22 <sup>1</sup> 21 <sup>1</sup> 22 <sup>1</sup>							
Ctz Bence	1.03	14	27	25	25	+1 <sup>2</sup>	I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clean Hor	26	21	142 <sup>2</sup>	14	142 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	ICF Int	32	170	57 <sup>2</sup> 5	54 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>					
Cife Dr	30	484	154 <sup>2</sup>	143 <sup>2</sup>	143 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	IDB Comm	46	568	41 <sup>2</sup> 403 <sup>2</sup>							
Clothesline	16	5168	94 <sup>2</sup>	93 <sup>2</sup>	92 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	IEC Intel	36	210	27 <sup>2</sup>	26 <sup>2</sup>	26 <sup>2</sup>					
CocaColaB	0.88268	340	27	26 <sup>2</sup>	26 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Ido Inc	0	20	5	62 <sup>2</sup>	52 <sup>2</sup>					
Cool Enzy	220	415	61 <sup>2</sup>	61 <sup>2</sup>	61 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Immuco	18	227	61 <sup>2</sup> 61 <sup>2</sup> 6							
Cold Gass	7	366	84 <sup>2</sup>	75 <sup>2</sup>	75 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Immunex	5	7671	32 <sup>1</sup> 22 <sup>1</sup> 32 <sup>1</sup>							
Compsite	44	571	13 <sup>2</sup>	12 <sup>2</sup>	12 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Immunostif	20	29 <sup>2</sup>	28 <sup>2</sup>	27 <sup>2</sup>						
Comgen	34	921	234 <sup>2</sup>	23	23	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Immunolog	3	95	7 <sup>2</sup> 64 <sup>2</sup>							
Conl Gass	1.24	20	11	212 <sup>2</sup>	24 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Imperial Bc	0.40	12	203	11 <sup>1</sup> 104 <sup>2</sup>						
Conn Grp	0.60	11	445	28 <sup>2</sup>	28 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	In Store	0	48	1 <sup>2</sup> 6 <sup>2</sup>							
Connl Hap	22	3784	212 <sup>2</sup>	21 <sup>2</sup>	21 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Ind Seap	1.16	41	76 <sup>2</sup> 26 <sup>2</sup>							
Connik	0.19	25	1768	27 <sup>2</sup>	26 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Ind Ins	0.24	12	74 <sup>2</sup> 161 <sup>2</sup>							
Connst A	0.14	18	1854	23 <sup>2</sup>	22 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Ind Res	44	168	34 <sup>2</sup> 34 <sup>2</sup> 34 <sup>2</sup>							
Connst&Sp	0.14	33	1373	21 <sup>2</sup>	21 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Inform	29	2089	25 <sup>2</sup> 25 <sup>2</sup>							
ConnstBisho	0.11	61	294 <sup>2</sup>	29 <sup>2</sup>	29 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Injedictk	0.33	14	44 <sup>2</sup> 71 <sup>2</sup> 67 <sup>2</sup>							
ConnstClear	0.70	26	217	174 <sup>2</sup>	164 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	InjetyDB	4	18 <sup>2</sup>	163 <sup>2</sup> 163 <sup>2</sup>							
ConnstCompl	44	571	13 <sup>2</sup>	12 <sup>2</sup>	12 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	IntegrDev	80	1484	112 <sup>1</sup> 102 <sup>1</sup> 102 <sup>1</sup>							
ConnstCntr	2	27	84 <sup>2</sup>	64 <sup>2</sup>	64 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Integrsys	21	160	67 <sup>2</sup> 7 <sup>2</sup> 72 <sup>2</sup>							
ConnstFp	88	11989	45 <sup>2</sup>	43 <sup>2</sup>	43 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Integrif	7	222	65 <sup>2</sup> 64 <sup>2</sup> 63 <sup>2</sup>							
ConnstPaper	1.28	43	408	53	52 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Inteli Cp	0.20	1740031	504 <sup>2</sup> 534 <sup>2</sup> 56 <sup>2</sup>							
Connstum	8	34	7	61 <sup>2</sup>	7 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Intl	3	243	3 <sup>2</sup> 25 <sup>2</sup> 26 <sup>2</sup>							
Connstel	1.44	46	1180	85 <sup>2</sup>	85 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	IntgntEl	23	1378	13 <sup>2</sup> 13 <sup>2</sup> 13 <sup>2</sup>							
ConnstData	21	659	184 <sup>2</sup>	184 <sup>2</sup>	184 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Int'l Tel	18	39	71 <sup>2</sup> 71 <sup>2</sup> 71 <sup>2</sup>							
ConnstA	0.50	15	1855	184 <sup>2</sup>	184 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	IntrecoA	0.24	15	43 <sup>2</sup> 111 <sup>2</sup> 111 <sup>2</sup>							
Copytele	172	7845	184 <sup>2</sup>	184 <sup>2</sup>	174 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Intergrph	108	892	93 <sup>2</sup> 93 <sup>2</sup> 85 <sup>2</sup>							
Connle Cp	16	14223	32 <sup>2</sup>	32 <sup>2</sup>	31 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Intrelef	12	364	7 <sup>2</sup> 7 <sup>2</sup> 7 <sup>2</sup>							
Connstata	2.16	12	1400	501 <sup>2</sup>	501 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Intreive	6	250	71 <sup>2</sup> 63 <sup>2</sup> 63 <sup>2</sup>							
Corp Of C	32	38	74 <sup>2</sup>	73 <sup>2</sup>	73 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Intrvac	30	1442	27 <sup>2</sup> 25 <sup>2</sup>							
Costco Wh	17	4446	184 <sup>2</sup>	18	16 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	IntDairyOA	14	85	177 <sup>2</sup> 162 <sup>2</sup> 164 <sup>2</sup>							
Cracker B	0.02	38	9198	27 <sup>2</sup>	26 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Int Res	0.04137	3	24 <sup>2</sup> 23 <sup>2</sup>							
Gray Comp	1	487	25 <sup>2</sup>	25 <sup>2</sup>	25 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Int Total	100	490	8 <sup>2</sup> 7 <sup>2</sup> 8 <sup>2</sup>							
Crester	1.12	16	3770	44 <sup>2</sup>	43 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Intzazare	0.01	18	84 <sup>2</sup> 23 <sup>2</sup> 23 <sup>2</sup>							
Crown Res	3	123	54 <sup>2</sup>	45 <sup>2</sup>	43 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Intezome	37	120	34 <sup>2</sup> 34 <sup>2</sup> 41 <sup>2</sup>							
Cyogen	13	295	124 <sup>2</sup>	111 <sup>2</sup>	124 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Intezmed	14	71	16 <sup>2</sup> 15 <sup>2</sup> 15 <sup>2</sup>							
- D -																	
DSC Comm	7012558	51 <sup>1</sup>	48 <sup>2</sup>	51 <sup>1</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Moshe P	0.38	30	130 <sup>2</sup> 24 <sup>2</sup>								
Dabberg	0.12	28	23	21	20 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Mr Coffee	15	916	3 <sup>2</sup> 7 <sup>2</sup> 8 <sup>2</sup>							
Dart Grou	0.13	07	7	85	80 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	MTS Sys	0.48	20	21 <sup>2</sup>							
DartSwitch	15	115	24 <sup>2</sup>	21 <sup>2</sup>	21 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Multimedia	20	771	35 <sup>2</sup> 34 <sup>2</sup>							
- E -																	
Eidit	0.12	17	3888	22 <sup>1</sup>	22 <sup>1</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	NAC Re	0.16	61	686 <sup>2</sup> 36 <sup>2</sup>							
Eltel	0.07	17	361	20 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Neash Foch	0.72	10	8							
Emerson	0.57	22	40	23 <sup>2</sup>	23 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Net Pizza	19	55	84 <sup>2</sup>							
Enron	0.80	17	29	21 <sup>2</sup>	21 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	NetCom	0.70	23	57 <sup>2</sup> 57 <sup>2</sup>							
Entel	0.03	0	1	1	1	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Net Compt	0.35	18	151 <sup>2</sup> 151 <sup>2</sup>							
Entel	0.03	0	1	1	1	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Net Data	0.44	30	255 <sup>2</sup> 18 <sup>2</sup>							
Entel	0.03	0	1	1	1	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Net Sun	0.20	1	80 <sup>2</sup>							
Entel	0.03	0	1	1	1	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Networx	23	44	34 <sup>2</sup> 34 <sup>2</sup>							
Entel	0.03	0	1	1	1	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Nextel	0.21	44	80 <sup>2</sup>							
Entel	0.03	0	1	1	1	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Netwrix	0.20	17	104 <sup>2</sup>							
Entel	0.03	0	1	1	1	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Netwrix	0.20	17	104 <sup>2</sup>							
- F -																	
Fair	0.12	28	23	21	20 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Nexis Sys	0.16	61	686 <sup>2</sup> 36 <sup>2</sup>							
Farmers	0.17	17	361	20 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Telcom	31	227	30 <sup>2</sup> 30 <sup>2</sup>							
Fatigue	0.07	17	358	23 <sup>2</sup>	23 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Teltra	0.01	11	204 <sup>2</sup>							
Fax	0.12	17	361	20 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Teltron	0.20	17	104 <sup>2</sup>							
Federal	0.12	17	361	20 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Teltron	0.20	17	104 <sup>2</sup>							
- G -																	
Globe	0.12	17	361	20 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	+1 <sup>2</sup>	Teltron	0.20	17	104 <sup>2</sup>							
Globe	0.12	17	361	20 <sup></sup>													

## MONDAY INTERVIEW

## Optimist's upward curve

Daniel Tully, chairman of Merrill Lynch, talks to Patrick Harverson

A golf club rests against a table, pictures of his walls, but no stock market computer screens clutter the desk of the chairman of America's most powerful financial company.

Mr Daniel Tully, who a week ago took over the helm of Merrill Lynch, the largest securities house in the US, does not fit the popular image of Wall Street's elite.

Instead of the intense, blue-blooded financier that people might expect to run one of the nation's largest investment banks and securities houses, Mr Tully is a big, cheerfully confident Irish New Yorker, the son of a dockside steamfitter from the borough of Queens.

He believes his Irish heritage has helped him to manage a big company with a large number of staff. "The Irish have a certain empathy, compassion and a willingness to put themselves in the other person's shoes."

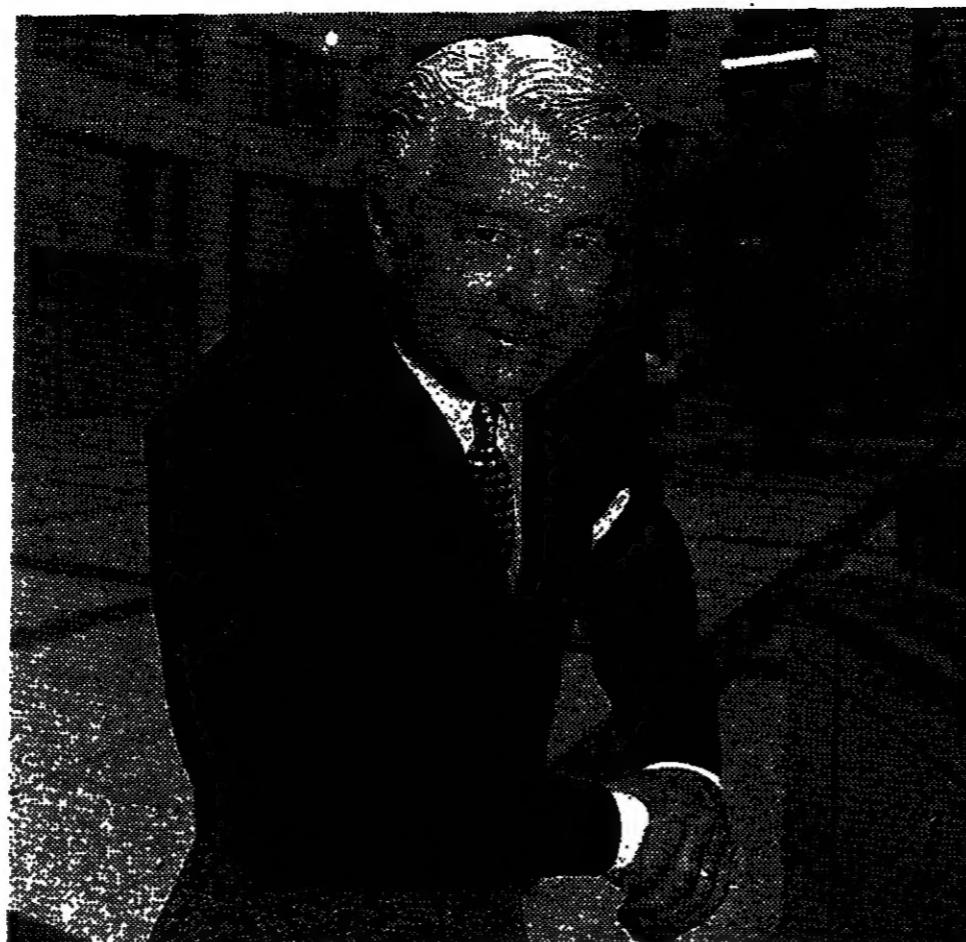
He admits that, when he started in the securities business in 1955, he knew nothing about stockbroking. Neither, it seems, did his mother. Laughing at the memory, he says: "When I got the job that day, and went home and told my mother that I had a job there, she said, 'What's your job?'"

Today, the red dots have gone well, says Mr Tully, the attention to cost control has not. Merrill employs what its chairman calls the "burden of proof" policy, which regularly asks every unit to justify why it should remain part of Merrill Lynch. Mr Tully says: "The burden of proof is on that organisation to come back to us and sell management on why they are critical and integral to our long-term strategy and success." If the management is not convinced, cut comes the axe.

While he might not have done well in advertising, the 61-year-old Mr Tully has thrived in stockbroking. After joining Merrill's accounting department, he worked up through the firm's broking workforce, moving to the New York head office in 1976.

Six years later, Mr Tully was made head of the firm's private client business, and in 1985 he was appointed president and chief operating officer. From 1985, he ran Merrill with his long-time friend and partner, Mr William Schreyer, who was chairman until his retirement two weeks ago.

During Mr Tully's tenure, Merrill has grown from one of several dominant firms on Wall Street, to the dominant force. Today, the firm is pre-eminent in almost every area of the US capital markets - its brokers earn more commissions than any other firm, its investment bankers underwrite the most



I don't think the future has ever been brighter'

Twenty years later, however, the industry abandoned fixed broking commissions and Merrill, like many Wall Street firms, decided to offer a broader range of services to clients and lock them into long-term relationships.

The two responded with a three-year cost-cutting programme, which shrank Merrill's workforce from 50,000 to just over 40,000. Mr Tully patrolled the firm's offices, slapping small red dots on equipment and furniture that he believed was surplus to Merrill's needs.

Today, the red dots have gone well, says Mr Tully, the attention to cost control has not. Merrill employs what its chairman calls the "burden of proof" policy, which regularly asks every unit to justify why it should remain part of Merrill Lynch. Mr Tully says: "The burden of proof is on that organisation to come back to us and sell management on why they are critical and integral to our long-term strategy and success." If the management is not convinced, cut comes the axe.

While retreating from some businesses, Merrill has been expanding in others - most notably asset management. In common with other big Wall Street firms, Merrill wants to build up its fee-based revenues as an insurance against the volatility of its more cyclical businesses such as trading, broking and underwriting.

Today, Merrill's recurring revenues cover half of its fixed costs. Mr Tully wants all the fixed costs covered by the end of the decade. If that target is reached, Merrill's earnings from broking commissions, trading and investment banking would be pure profit.

Back in 1955, when Mr Tully joined Merrill, broking commissions represented 90% of the firm's earnings. Now all of the firm's earnings

through spending cuts rather than tax increases." In particular, he is disappointed that there is little in Mr Clinton's economic policy that encourages savings and investment.

Mr Tully is extremely positive about the US, despite the country's economic and social problems. Asked if the American dream has fizzled, he answers vehemently: "Hell no. I don't think the future has ever been brighter. You look at all the trends in the United States, and you might see a little ripple, but the long-term trends are extremely positive. Every chart I look at starts in the lower left-hand corner and goes to the higher right-hand corner."

Sitting in his spacious office, with its view of the river, and those twin symbols of hope - Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty - Mr Tully is the embodiment of the American optimist. There is nothing wrong, he says, with being an optimist. After all: "I've never met a rich pessimist."

He trusts his senior managers to get on with managing the firm while he travels, meeting clients and employees. Slipping into one of his many anecdotes, he says: "At a recent conference someone said to me: 'Mr Tully, how can you manage forty-three thousand people, and \$120bn of balance sheet?' I said: 'I don't. It's 11.15am and I haven't spoken to my office yet.' I said: 'Someone is managing 40,000 people, and a lot of people are managing the balance sheet.' Part of my executive responsibility is to set priorities, allocate resources and set the tone and principles which will guide us through the good times and the bad."

He comes down hard, however, on employees that abuse his trust. "If you go outside the parameters," he says, making a slicing motion across his knees with his hand, "I'm not very tolerant."

Otherwise, he seems a tolerant man and, despite his avowed fondness for former President Reagan, broadly supportive of the current Democrat president. "I applaud President Clinton's deficit-reduction goal, but would prefer it if he accomplished more

## PERSONAL FILE

1932 Born in Queens, New York.

1953 Graduated from St John's University, New York.

1955 Started at Merrill Lynch, Stamford, Connecticut.

1970 Manager of Stamford office.

1976 Individual sales director, head office.

1982 Executive vice-president and head of Individual Services Group.

1983 President and chief operating officer.

1992 Chief executive.

1993 Chairman.

accounts, cheque books and mortgages, the services such as insurance, business loans, stockbroking, investment management and high-tech corporate finance.

Mr Tully thinks that the firm should follow the clients' needs, rather than the other way round. "The logic is, if you focus on your clients, then you change along with them as they go through their life. It's a recognition that the only constant is change."

This attention to the client, he believes, has turned Merrill into the country's biggest securities house. In spite of the firm's size and the complexity of its business, Mr Tully has always adopted a style of man-

## No nukes is good nukes



IAN DAVIDSON  
on  
EUROPE

destroyed. Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma went further, and said that Ukraine should formally proclaim itself a nuclear weapons state - until the weapons are removed and destroyed. In the meantime, US intelligence suspects that the Ukrainians are working on the electronic codes which control the missiles, and may be able to crack them in the not-too-distant future.

Ukraine's fundamental objectives remain ambiguous, because the political class is divided. Sometimes, they are just using the missiles as bargaining counters, to get more financial aid from the west; such an objective can only have been reinforced by the Tokyo meeting, which offered \$3bn to Russia but nothing to Ukraine. But sometimes, they regard the missiles as a security guarantee against possible Russian aggression; and would only give them up in exchange for a security guarantee from the west. If that is the bottom line, Ukraine will keep the missiles, their enthusiasm, but has enough sense not to object.

As a result, the official nuclear powers are urgently trying to rebuild the political credibility of the non-proliferation regime. President Bill Clinton has extended the US moratorium on nuclear testing for another 15 months, and Russia and France have both given their support to a comprehensive test ban. The UK government does not share their enthusiasm, but has enough sense not to object.

The probable collapse of the non-proliferation dyke will have far-reaching consequences. If nuclear weapons are no longer restricted to the very few, those who used to claim to be the only legitimate members of the nuclear club will need new justifications for their political privilege, starting with permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Sooner or later, Germany and Japan must get permanent seats, and it would be better if they did so without acquiring nuclear weapons.

Britain and France should make a virtue of necessity, and urge their admission.

**D**avid Gergen and the other news manipulators did a fine job for their political masters at the meeting of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations in Tokyo last week. They got great headlines for the "agreement" on a Gatt deal, for the group's hypocritical words on Bosnia, for the \$3bn (£2bn) aid package for Russia. Considering that the meeting had gathered amid a general consensus that the G7 was a busted flush, and the seven leaders the most discredited bunch in recent history, this was quite an achievement for the spin merchants.

A by-product of this was that the news managers were able to downplay one of the most serious items on the G7 agenda: the prospect that the world is on the threshold of an ominous, and quite possibly dangerous, proliferation of nuclear weapons. The issue is mentioned in the final communiqué, but in such deadpan terms that it remained safely on the inside pages.

The first and most immediate cause of anxiety is Ukraine, which after long debate now seems determined to hang on to at least some of the 176 strategic nuclear missiles which were part of the Soviet arsenal and happened to be based on Ukrainian territory. This could jeopardise the radical US-Russian nuclear arms reductions treaties signed only six months ago; but it could also give new and dangerous encouragement to other countries to acquire nuclear weapons.

Then there is North Korea, which is probably engaged on building up its own nuclear weapons capability, in defiance

## President Clinton's economic Jeeves



MICHAEL PROWSE  
on  
AMERICA

It may seem absurd to compare Mr Robert Rubin, the director of the White House National Economic Council, with Bertie Wooster's fictional manservant Jeeves. Yet in a town overpopulated with brash, assertive personalities, his self-effacing, low-key demeanour really does bring the omniscient Jeeves to mind.

Gleefully playing up Mr Rubin's deferential style, the Washington Post recently reported his habit of prefacing his rare interjections in White House meetings with the words "in my humble opinion." One can almost imagine him presenting economic options to Mr Clinton on a silver platter, although he knows 10 times as much about finance as the president, he apparently hesitates to indicate a strong preference for one policy over another.

Mr Rubin's apparent lack of ego is seen as especially puzzling given that he has spent his working life on Wall Street. One of the most successful arbitragers of his generation, he ended up as a co-chairman of Goldman Sachs, the investment bank. Last year he reported earnings of \$26.5m (£17.6m), making him unusually wealthy, even by the standards of Mr Clinton's well-heeled Cabinet.

During a 40-minute interview in his panelled office in the west wing of the White House, Mr Rubin stuck resolutely to his type-casting. I could not get him to express a really strong opinion about anything, even off the record. When asked for his personal views, he tended to reply by deftly outlining the president's policies on the topic in question.

Yet as director of the NEC, Mr Rubin is potentially the most powerful economic official in Washington. He coordinates the activities of all the other economic agencies and enjoys daily access to the president; more than anybody else, he is the prism through which Mr Clinton views the economic world. Yet he rejects flatly any suggestion that he has a specially important role. He is cer-

tainly not Mr Clinton's economic chief of staff, he says, because that would imply the heads of other agencies report to him, which they do not.

Does he accept the common criticism that he is too reluctant to express his own views on policy issues?

"People say that I really think it's not correct. What you have to do in this job is to perform your co-ordinating function with real intellectual integrity so that everybody feels their views are laid out fully and fairly. Then, separately, you can express your own personal views... I don't feel I thumb my nose but I don't feel any reticence about coming forward with my views."

Whatever he says, it is hard to believe that Mr Rubin does harbour strong personal views on economic policy. What really seems to excite him is teamwork and the process of brokering agreements. In helping devise the US's new hardened trade policy towards Japan, for example, Mr Rubin got "seven, eight, maybe 10 agencies around the table."

The marathon debate that ensued was apparently unprecedented in that policies towards Japan have usually been fashioned independently in particular agencies, such as the treasury, state or commerce departments.

Yet it was typical of Mr Rubin's mission at the NEC, which is to bring to economic policy-making the kind of coherence and co-operation that has long characterised foreign and diplomatic policy. The NEC is thus consciously modelled on the National Security Council and Mr Rubin regards his role

as precisely analogous to that of Mr Anthony Lake, the national security adviser.

Mr Rubin's council has undoubtedly played an important role in formulating budgetary and trade policy. But quite how far its influence will ultimately stretch remains unclear. During the election campaign, there was speculation that a Clinton administration would move beyond traditional macroeconomic policies and take an active interest in the performance of individual industries, especially in high-tech sectors. Does Mr Rubin personally have faith in "industrial policy"?

I expected - and got - an equivocal response. "Industrial policy is a funny word," he says. "To 100 people it will mean 200 different things - everybody has at least two different definitions in mind." However, he believes there may be "externalities" that could justify a more active government role in some areas. He will not elaborate because he does not want to prejudice the outcome of the few sectoral studies currently under way. Characteristically, all he can promise is that a premium will be placed on inter-departmental co-operation. "There will be Laura [Tyson], Bob Reich, Lloyd Bentsen, Leon [Panetta] and myself - and others - sitting at the table and working it out together as opposed to something happening in one agency that others don't agree with."

Mr Rubin is urbane, courteous and, above all, non-ideological. His self-effacing style is a breath of fresh air in Washington and has gone down well with more overtly ambitious colleagues. He deserves credit for striving to create a more rational and co-operative policy-making apparatus. But whether his committee system, which gives a voice to all interested parties in the federal government, will produce effective policies remains an open question. Unless the NEC's able director provides a stronger sense of direction, some observers worry it will end up producing camels.

Of broking and jobbing the Pelikan's fond.  
See how sweetly he puts your word onto bond.

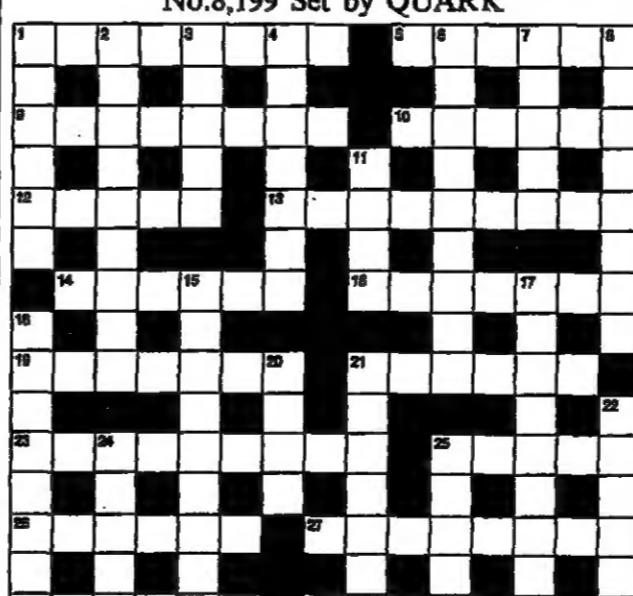
Pelikan



JOTTER PAD

## CROSSWORD

No.8,199 Set by QUARK



ACROSS  
1 State of mind after bathing?  
2 Extract, Result of dentist's work? (5)  
5 Relatively reckless one could get a grilling? (5)  
9 Thus possibly usurps one with gloomy disposition? (5)  
10 Artist comes back into row for list of charges? (6)  
12 Fox one with the cubs, say? (5)  
13 Trial and goal unsettled this river dweller? (5)  
14 Small person encountered round new dig? (5)  
15 US store dealing in Indian silk? (5)  
19 The way lathe turns in an underhand procedure? (7)  
21 With reference to name, speak out? (5)  
22 Curves will maybe be? (5)  
23 One likely to see the light? (5)  
24 Holder of post that ought to be dealt with? (2-4)  
27 In favour of benefit the north abandoned? (5)  
28 King leading a charge in kind of combat? (5)  
29 Transport centre when reorganised introducing a bit of noise? (5)

DOWN  
1 Tick in school? (6)  
2 Extract, Result of dentist's work? (5)  
3 Absolutely not the first to make suggestion? (5)  
4 Second of the present month? (7)  
6 Edling comedy's beginning as riotous as synod? (9)  
7 Included in doubts - 10 highlights coming up in life? (5)  
8 Improved cast in the plant? (5)  
11 It could be in a block lacking excitement? (4)  
15 Girl left boy with bit of tendency to flirt? (5)  
17 Direct KO puts one out? (5)  
18 This character is a star in print? (5)  
20 A hard fall? (4)  
21 Adversely criticise the decision analysis? (3-4)  
22 Sulphide ore not quite mixed thoroughly? (6)  
24 Unmitigated state? (5)  
25 Person half grasps old style brain-teaser? (5)

Prices for electricity determined for the purposes of the electricity trading and delivery in England and Wales.	
Period Price for Trading and Delivery Times	
1st hour	Pool
pool purchases	pool sales
2nd hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
3rd hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
4th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
5th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
6th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
7th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
8th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
9th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
10th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
11th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
12th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
13th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
14th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
15th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
16th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
17th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
18th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
19th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
20th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
21st hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
22nd hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
23rd hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
24th hour	pool
pool purchases	pool sales
25th hour	pool</